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Security Council

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Letter dated 28 February 2005 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Please find enclosed herewith the text of a letter and its annex dated 8 February 2005 that I received from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for the text of this letter and its annex to be circulated to the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

05-25279 (E) 030305 030305

Enclosure

Quarterly report to the United Nations on the operations of the International Security Assistance Force

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 1510 (2003), the Security Council requested the leadership of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) to provide reports on the implementation of its mandate. This is the fifth such report by NATO, and covers the period from 11 August 2004 to 25 January 2005.

2. As at 25 January 2005, ISAF total strength was 8,027 personnel from 26 NATO nations plus 268 personnel from 10 non-NATO nations. Overall troop figures fluctuated during the reporting period, reaching a total of approximately 9,000 at the end of 2004 owing to the presence of election support forces.

3. The successful holding of presidential elections has resulted in the naming of a new Government, with the announcement of the cabinet made on 23 December 2004. The main challenges facing the new Government will be the coordination of policies between ministries, implementing President Karzai's ambitious agenda and preparing for upcoming parliamentary, provincial and district elections. On 30 December 2004, President Karzai issued a notice to recruit deputy ministers, directors of independent directorates and heads of governmental organizations.

4. ISAF continues to expand its mandate to provide a secure environment and assist in the reconstruction of the country. Since August, ISAF has taken over new provincial reconstruction teams at Pol-e-Khumri and Feyzabad. Germany completed bilateral agreements with Denmark and the Czech Republic to provide troops for the Feyzabad provincial reconstruction team and another bilateral agreement with Croatia which will bring a Croat contribution of a long-term civil cooperation component to the German provincial reconstruction team. NATO also has continued its role in running Kabul Afghanistan International Airport (KAIA), with the expected handover from Iceland to Turkey due to take place on 31 January.

5. Transition between Headquarters ISAF VI and Headquarters ISAF VII is to take place in February at a change-of-command ceremony in Kabul.

II. Security situation

Security in the ISAF areas of operation

6. The overall security situation in Kabul and its environs over the reporting period has been relatively calm but unstable, with continual warnings of attacks against ISAF, coalition forces and the Afghan Government. There have been several isolated attacks which caused relatively minor damage and casualties. On 11 October, two rocket attacks occurred in Kabul hitting the Afghan National Army (ANA) garrison adjacent to ISAF Headquarters. On 23 October, a suicide bomber detonated three grenades as three ISAF vehicles from KAIA passed by. As a result two ISAF personnel sustained minor injuries and one was more seriously injured. On 29 October, two civilians opened fire using small arms against an ISAF patrol.

7. In Area North, there is a continued presence of militant forces in the Konduz and Balkh Provinces and of local commanders who oppose the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process and are involved in illegal activities. In terms of the overall security situation, a number of incidents occurred during the presidential election period.

8. On 29 September, there was a rocket attack on the German provincial reconstruction team in Konduz which injured four ISAF personnel (one of whose injuries were considered serious). On 7 September, there was a demonstration against non-governmental organizations in Feyzabad. Although the evacuation operation did not actually take place, the local provincial reconstruction team was preparing to airlift 25 non-governmental organizations personnel to safety using German helicopters. On 6 October, a bomb exploded in Feyzabad, targeting an ally of President Karzai, Ahmad Zia Massoud. On 26 November, a German patrol comprising two vehicles of the Konduz provincial reconstruction team was the victim of an explosion, which caused slight injuries to three German soldiers and damage to one of the vehicles. On 20 January, a suicide attack was carried out against General Dostum in Sheberghan. General Dostum escaped unharmed although 1 body guard was killed and 21 people were injured. A Taliban spokesman claimed responsibility for the attack and General Dostum requested ISAF and coalition support in investigating the attack.

9. Italy has confirmed its intention to deploy personnel to the provincial reconstruction team in Herat. On 20 January, an advance planning team of 7 personnel was deployed followed by a further 42 personnel in February.

10. ISAF has monitored the hajj and has provided security support in that context. Outbound movements of 26,000 Afghan pilgrims to Saudi Arabia occurred without incident. Key airports of debarkation for mass pilgrim movements were KAIA, Mazar-e-Sharif, Herat and Kandahar.

III. Support for the Afghan Transitional Authority and to the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan

Presidential elections

11. The threat from opposing militant forces who wanted to derail the electoral process failed to materialize. Small-scale attacks did occur, although none resulted in serious consequences. ISAF provided enhanced area security and support through the deployment of an additional 2,000 personnel. Provincial reconstruction teams were also reinforced with additional troops and capabilities. Quick-reaction forces, operational reserve troops and NATO air presence contributed to this enhanced security.

12. During the election period, ISAF participated in the Afghan electoral management structure with planners embedded in the Strategic Security Group, Election Information Group and Electoral Security Operation Centre. ISAF also provided limited support to international observers from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the European Union.

13. Limited logistical support was also provided to the Joint Electoral Management Body (JEMB), which has now transitioned to the Independent Election Commission, set up to prepare for parliamentary elections anticipated in May 2005.

The nine Commission members were appointed by President Karzai in an ethnically balanced proportion. ISAF support for JEMB included handling of incoming election material from Europe at KAIA and providing a number of flights between Kabul and Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran to move ballot papers of Afghanis in refugee camps.

14. Prior to the presidential inauguration ceremony on 7 December, ISAF assisted in demining operations around the presidential palace. Additional ISAF support around this event included closure of KAIA to all civilian traffic and vehicle movement restrictions in Kabul.

Support for security sector reforms

15. The disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process is expected to be completed by June 2005. The latest figures show that a total of 34,284 military personnel have handed over their weapons. The ISAF heavy weapons cantonment initiative, although not strictly speaking a part of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process, has proved successful, as 8,114 items of heavy weaponry have been collected and placed in secure compounds. The last remaining significant area containing heavy weapons is in the Panjshir Valley, where a small ISAF detachment is providing assistance.

16. ISAF is increasing its training and development activities in terms of support for ANA using a mentoring role to develop ANA headquarters. ANA has made significant progress and in terms of recruiting, training and fielding of units, the security sector reform process has exceeded its objectives. Seventeen ANA battalions, or Kandaks, have been reorganized into one corps with three brigades.

17. As mentioned in the previous report (S/2004/785, annex, enclosure), current reforms of the judicial system have been only marginally successful, which suggests that greater coordination and involvement by the international community is required. The ISAF legal office aims to organize, in coordination with the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, legal training sessions for Afghani administrative and judicial personnel.

Civil-military cooperation

18. ISAF civil-military cooperation has begun to shift its focus from quick-reaction projects and short-term assessments to a more long-term vision aimed at meeting the requirements of the Afghan national priority programme and harmonizing the activities of the international community and ISAF.

19. Improving the civil administration remains the first priority. ISAF is helping to identify actual needs, promote the use of respective functional specialists, monitor ongoing projects and act as a mediator for training and funding issues. A dialogue is also maintained with the World Bank and the European Commission to provide support for civil-military cooperation within the Afghan stabilization programme.

20. The United States-led counter-narcotics strategy meeting took place in January 2005 with representatives from ISAF and Joint Force Commander Brunsum in attendance, as well as the Afghan authorities and the international community. The aim is to provide a two- to three-year plan for counter narcotics measures.

Kabul Afghanistan International Airport

21. ISAF is currently running KAIA. The long-term objective is the management and operation of the airport to be transferred to the Afghan authorities. At the meeting of the Clearing House on 19 January, chaired by the NATO international staff, representatives from the international community and the afghan authorities reviewed Steering Committee activities related to KAIA rehabilitation. The Clearing House renewed the commitment of the international community to support the Afghan Government in civil aviation.

IV. Conclusion

22. Factional fighting in the northern region will remain a problem if the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process is not afforded its required structure. Sporadic and isolated attacks against local authorities, Afghan security forces and ISAF are likely to continue.

23. ISAF has provided security support to the Afghan Government and made a significant contribution to the successful holding of presidential elections and the subsequent inauguration of President Karzai. The provincial reconstruction teams proved to be a valuable tool in supporting the United Nations and other international organizations (governmental and non-governmental organizations) during the electoral process. NATO has committed itself to providing similar support for the spring electoral process.

24. ISAF has continued to fulfil its United Nations mandate to support the Afghan Government in setting up a secure and safe environment within its area of operations, in addition to conducting framework security operations, ISAF continues to execute a supporting role in the security sector reform, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and associated heavy weapons cantonment.

25. Coordination between the coalition and governmental and non-governmental agencies continues to improve to provide a synergy of purpose in creating a safe environment suitable for the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

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The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Security Council
Sixtieth year

Letter dated 28 February 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Republic of Armenia continues to conduct an active settlement policy in the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan aimed at the consolidation of the status quo in the occupied territories and the prevention of the expelled Azerbaijani population from returning to their lands of origin. This policy falls within the serious violation of the laws and customs of war and, in particular, constitutes a grave breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949. In general, according to the laws and customs of war, being only a temporary administrator of occupied territory, the occupying Power must not interfere with its original economic and social structures, organization, legal system or demography,[1] acquire ownership of immovable public property in the occupied territory, including natural resources.

Likewise, the policy of settlement runs contrary to the process of peaceful settlement of the conflict, harms the negotiations, pre-empts their outcome and attempts, compelling Azerbaijan to be reconciled to a fait accompli situation. The facts obtained from various sources confirm that this policy in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan is purposefully carried out in an organized and planned manner by the Government of Armenia with the active assistance of the Armenian diaspora.

Notwithstanding the efforts of the Government of Armenia to conceal its direct involvement in the transfer projects, the high-level working group on the implementation of a large-scale settlement transfer programme called "Return to Artsax" with the participation of Benik Bakhshiyan, Counsellor, Gagik Eganyan, Head of Department of Migration and Refugees of the Republic of Armenia and other senior officials, as well as Yerkir, a non-governmental organization headed by Andranik Margaryan, Prime Minister of Armenia. In an interview on 18 December

[1] Statement by the representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross to the Conference of High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention, 5 December 2001.

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2003 Prime Minister Margaryan confirmed that "Armenia and NKR are within the common economic space" and that their "main purpose is the settlement of NKR and development of its investment field by means of creating the favourable regime for economic subjects."[2]

The organizations Armenian Education Fund of Western America, Hayastan Fund, Yerkir Union and Armenian Eparchy Council of Tehran are major sponsors of the illegal transfer operations and construction carried out in the occupied territories. With the assistance of Yerkir, by spring 2004, 35 families had already established residence. In 2004 Yerkir planned to implement programmes worth US$ 500,000 and to resettle about 80 families in the occupied territories.[3] In 2004 for the implementation of the "Return to Artsax" programme $400,000 had been allocated from international funds and 90 buildings had been constructed in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.[4]

The misappropriation of natural resources and cultural monuments is directly related to the settlement policy. There are two large gold fields in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan: Zod mine in Kalbajar and Vejnali mine in Zangilan. In 1993 an agreement worth $63 million on the exploitation of the Zod mine was signed between the Armenian side and the Canadian company First Dynasty Mines, Ltd. (in 2002 renamed to "Sterlite Gold, Ltd."). The Government of Armenia reports that it is currently working on the issue of enhancing the profitability of the Vejnali mine estimated at 4.5 tons with a view to launching its exploitation. In this regard Armenia plans to involve United States and Canadian companies.

Armenia has involved a number of foreign firms and companies in its illegal economic activities in the occupied territories. DSA, specializing in processing and producing gems and jewellery, Shoqakn, joint stock company established by Israeli citizen Lev Levayev, and LL Diamond, Dimotech founded by the Belgian firm Rosy Blue, as well as the Shusha branch of the Jewelry Factory of Armenia are on the list. De Beers, a famous company exporting, jointly with the English "Furfano" company, natural diamonds to Armenia, whose monthly export estimated at 8,000-20,000 carats of minerals, Lori owned by Ayk Arslanyan, a Belgian citizen, Arevakn owned by Robi Pasha, an Israeli citizen, Aqavni and Andranik joint stock companies of limited liability, as well as Gaqazard joint stock company and many others are operating in Nagorny Karabakh and other occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

Armenia attaches the utmost importance to the misappropriation of the monuments of the ancient Caucasian Albania in the occupied territories. The Armenian side has already attempted to present the Albanian religious monuments of Khotavank Monastery (sixth to twelfth century) in Kalbajar, more than 10 temples (fifth to eleventh century) in Lachin and the church located in Kangarli village of Aghdam district as Armenian monuments. Ancient Albanian scripts, ornaments carved on walls and crosses related to the above-mentioned monuments have been destroyed and replaced by Armenian attributes. A number of mosques are being used as storehouses.

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[2] www.gov.am/ruversion/premier_2/print.html?=299&rul; and http://www.menq.am/pls/dbms/mnp.show_npitem?pnp=128&pfile=359977&pnew=y&plgg=3.

[3] http://a1plus.am/eng/?go=print&id=15280.

[4] www.kavkaz.memo.ru.

The change of Azerbaijani toponymy into Armenian has been employed widely. The names of Azerbaijan's Kalbajar, Lachin, Gubadli and Zangilan districts, by being changed to Karvajar, Kashatagh, Kashunik and Kovsakan, have accordingly been "Armenianized". In all these actions the ultimate goal is to create the basis for future annexation of those territories.[5]

The occupied territories have become a particular source of crime untouched by international monitoring. The separatist regime has created an enabling environment for illegal drug cultivation, production and realization. These facts were duly reflected in the report of the United States Department of State on international control strategy on drugs (March 2000). Drug smugglers are under the protection of the so-called "authorities" and financial benefits derived from drug realization are earmarked for keeping the occupied territories under "control" and paying for hired labour.[6] Hemp cultivation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan has also been referred to in the relevant report of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.[7]

Any statements that these are Armenian refugees from Azerbaijan or those affected by the earthquake in Spitak, Armenia, in 1988 who are being settled in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan can in no way justify the settlement policy. It is hard to believe that Armenian refugees voluntarily decided to move to the areas devastated as a result of combat action. Nor is it convincing that people leave the area ruined by an earthquake in order to settle in a region destroyed by war.

Azerbaijan has gathered many facts with regard to the above-mentioned activities carried out by Armenia in the occupied territories, a number of which have been reported to the United Nations (see A/59/568 and A/59/689-S/2005/64). Nonetheless, we continue to work in this direction, and have collected more information on the illegal settlement in the occupied territories.

As follow-up I have the honour to transmit herewith a compact disk containing video film[8] witnessing the Government-supported transfer of Armenians from Yerevan to the occupied Lachin region of Azerbaijan (produced by Abkhaz and Georgian journalists) and satellite images[9] of the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. The hard copy of the images[10] and their comments are also attached to this letter.

This information was presented to the OSCE Minsk Group Fact-Finding Mission to the occupied territories of Azerbaijan before it was dispatched.

I should be grateful if the present letter and the comments annexed to the letter were urgently distributed as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 163 and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yashar **Aliyev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

[5] www.artsakhworld.com.
[6] www.state.gov/g/inl/rls/nrcrpt/2000/892.htm
[7] www.assembly.coe.int/default.asp.
[8] May be viewed at www.un.int/azerbaijan/movie.avi.
[9] See annexes I and II.
[10] The original coloured images may be consulted in room S-3520 of the Secretariat.

Annex I to the letter dated 28 February 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Space Images
of the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan

This text contain the comments to the satellite captured images of Kelbajar, Gubadly, Zangilan, Lachin districts, the road from Gorus (Armenia) to Lachin (Azerbaijan) and town of Khankandi and Shusha. Resolution of preciseness of each image constitutes 0,8 m.

A. Kelbajar region. The survey was made on 2 September 2004. Images include both general view and separate fragments.

Image A 1. In the image a clear picture of the military installations is observed. Surrounding buildings have been completely demolished. Though the survey was made in morning, however no shadow is being observed, which leads to conclusion that the buildings have been destroyed to the ground. In right bottom of the image military vehicles, tracks and other military equipment are observed. Background of roads proves that they are under active exploitation. The buildings serve both for military and civilian purposes.

Image A 2. This is the central part of the Kelbajar region, city of Kelbajar. As a result of occupation almost all the housing pool of the city has been destroyed and burned to the ground. It is clearly seen from the remains of once- buildings. However, recently as it is seen at the picture some buildings have been reconstructed. Roofs of some houses indicate that the houses are new. Until the time of the occupation of these territories such type of roofs was unusual for Azerbaijan. They are newly built. Houses have been rebuilt mostly by the roadside and their intensive exploitation is clearly seen.

Image A 3. The north-east part of the city of Kelbajar. The same picture is observed here as well, e.i the most part of the city had been destroyed and reconstructed houses are located by the roadsides. Some houses have the white colored roofs and some – modern type red colored ones. All of the renovated houses are at immediate roadsides. From the image it's seen that these territories are inhabited and are actively exploited.

Image A 4. This is Chaykend village in the Kelbajar region. It is clearly visible that as a result of occupation the village has been destroyed. Newly erected houses confirm the settlement of population in that area. In the right of the image a bridge over the river is visible and against the background of the main road and the bridge it is concluded that these roads are very intensively made use of.

Image A 5. This is Sinihkilse village in the Kelbajar region. Here against the background of destroyed houses, newly restored houses are clearly visible. In the right of the image cultivation of a plot of land is visible. Inhabitants of the village are farming, i.e. till land and breed cattle.

B. Gubadly region. This is different parts of the territory of the Gubadly region.

Image B 1. This is the territory of the City of Gubadly. Garages, fence-roofs and constructions in the form of hangar, as well as equipment in front of buildings are clearly seen. This territory is used for military purposes. Close look reveals specific color, which implies that the equipment mainly consist of trucks. In the right of the image there is a big construction, looks like barrack. There is a small square in front of it. The equipment around the square could be seen. In the left bottom of the image destroyed buildings are seen.

Image B 2. This is the territory of the City of Gubadly. This part used to be the centre of the city. Here one can see lawns around buildings and newly asphalted territories. Coat of the buildings reveal that the building have recently been reconstructed. The color of the roof exposes whether it's new or old. The color of the roof of the building which is in the right bottom of the image differs from the colors of roofs of other buildings. This is old, whereas others are new. Beside the military constructions in left top of this image one may see buildings used for civilian purposes, with the court-yard nearby. The color of roads of the area indicates that they are intensively used.

Image B 4. This is an armoured vehicles training centre. In the top of the image in the square one may see military equipment – tanks. Strips from the south-east to the north-west of the image are indication of the movement of the military equipment, tanks. These paths are employed for entry to and exit from the testing area of the movement of military equipment. Strip perpendicular to that of used by armoured equipment is also visible. It is covered by asphalt or concrete. It is used for aircrafts. In a part of the strip control posts have been set and most likely they monitor take off and landing of planes. Generally speaking geographically the region provides opportunity for the use of armoured vehicles and aircrafts. Roads are intensively used in the area.

Image B 5. This is the image is of Demirchiler village in the Gubadly region. If buildings on this territories had been demolished, it appears that their roofs were renewed. It is obvious since they have been colored and renovated. Looking at the right of the image, one could see soils being utilized and cultivated. Thus, this area is inhabited and its terrirory is being used by the settlers.

Image B 6. This is the image of the terntory of the Gubadly region. Existence of a big building with a high fence erected around is presumed. Appeared shadow makes clearly visible the fence around the building with sentry posts placed in every two corner. This object is being used for military purposes.

Image B 7. This is the image of Godekler village. Against the background of ruined objects a building can be seen. Based on its length and width one can assume that the building is provided for civil purposes, namely for stock-farming. On the other hand, there is similiarity in apperance of the building to military unit, i.e. caserns. Light background around the building proves its intense exploitation. On the other hand, the territory is fenced, and thus, it is guarded.

Image B 8. This image is a fragn.ent of the territory of the Gubadly region. Given that survey was made in September of 2004, which is post farming period, therefore different spots appeared on the image could be either hay or straw stacks. This proves utilization of the territory for agricultural purposes.

Image B 9. This territory is also being utilized for agricultural purposes. Even tracks of different equipment and irrigaton facilities are noticeable. Spots could be reflection of haystacks and cattle. Crop has already been reaped, but land has not been ploughed yet. Comparison with surrounding background makes it obvious that this is intensively exploitated tract.

C. Zangilan region. Next is the image captured by satellite on 2 September 2004.

Image C 1. In image one can see a road between Minjuvan and Zangilan settlements, more precisely on the right side of road the village of Melikli and on the left side the village Girikh

Mushlan are visible. Undoubtedly, soils of these territories are being extensively utilized. Different parts of tract appear in different colours ranging from light to green and show cultivation of different plants; furthermore territories in upper part of road are devided. No doubt that these territories are used by population inhabiting those very areas.

D.Lachin region.

Image D. Another survey depicting territory called Lachin corridor was made on 2 September 2004. The road is viewed very clearly. There were 50 vehicles on that road at the time of surveillance. The analysis of the information obtained from the surveillance shows that 35 out of those 50 vehicles were trucks. On this particular image a large truck can be seen. It may also be noticed that the land on both sides of the road is being used for farming. Various kinds of plants may be distinguished by their colors.

Image E 1. Lachin territory. The surveillance here took place on 23 August. The fragments of several separate settlements are shown here. The large part of the village has been destroyed; however the image shows that up to 40-50% of houses in the settlement have been restored. In general, the roofs in this area have never been of this color before. All of these houses have been built recently. As it can be seen from their colors, these roof coverings are modern. The roads around these houses can be distinguished by their color, and their active use is evident. Houses have been built in the hills, that to say in more comfortable places.

Image E 2. This is city of Lachin. The major part of the city has been destroyed. However, new buildings have been constructed recently. Both small and relatively large buildings have been restored here. The background of the roads leading to these settlements, the fact that they are not covered by grass indicates that these roads are being actively utilized. There is a steady traffic between the buildings. The pavement of the roads is in normal condition, the roads are under constant control and reconstruction.

Image E 3. The next is Metskaladeresi village of Lachin region. The major part of houses here has been restored. It is well-known fact that at the time of the occupation of Lachin in 1992 all settlements here have been burnt down. There was no single house remaining. The image shows however that 90% of the village has been restored. This area has been traditionally used for cattle rearing. The image clearly shows that it is still being used for the same purposes. The vehicle can be seen on the road. The court-yards are also being utilized. On the territory in the upper right corner of the image the agricultural works are being conducted.

Image E 4. Sus village – one part of houses has also been rebuilt, another part remains destroyed. Some of the buildings have no roofs; others have been reconstructed and are being used. It is evident that people inhabiting this territory widely use the surrounding areas as well.

Image E 6. Territory of the Lachin district, on the left side of the image one ruined house and on the right side repaired house are visible. There are two valleys. You can see the repaired house. Road is also used. It is obvious fact that resettlements are carried out here.

Image E 5. One of residential areas of Lachin. 80-85% of the houses have been repaired. Also court-yards, dachas, fruit trees near every house, constructions, plazas in the village are clearly visible and everything else is actively used, which confirms the settlement.

Image F1. City of Agdam – lands around the city without any doubt are actively cultivated (before and after surveillance). Big portion of crop has already been harvested, but in some areas the harvest is still to be carried out. These areas are obviously made use of for the agricultural purposes. Roads are in a very good condition. But the city itself has completely been ruined. Some of the buildings are probably used for military purposes by those who harvest this land.

Image F 2. For comparison city of Agdam with its surroundings are displayed.

G. Khankendi, Shusha.

Image G 1. Territory of the city with that of existed before occupation was compared. Nowadays the city is enlarged, residential areas are increasing and number of buildings is rising. Without any doubt that both military installations and civilian buildings in the city are used. In the right top right of the image military installations are visible. They are easily recognized by color and background.

Image G 2. Surroundings of the city are being expanded. Comparison of maps issued 10-15 years before reveals changes. City has been enlarged due to transfer of new settlers. New buildings have been constructed. By the color of roofs of buildings it is obvious that they are modern constructions (especially in the outskirts).

Image G 3. This is Shusha. Unlike Khankendi a big portion of Shusha has been destroyed. In Khankendi buildings are in normal conditions, whereas in Shusha most of buildings have been demolished. People reside in some buildings, including in high-rise ones (4 or 5 levels). In the heart of the city there is a church. It is visible that the territory surrounding it is used. Neighboring building has recently been repaired as seen from its roof. In the left top one can see jail facility. This jail is in normal condition, which means that it is operational. Buildings have new roofs and high fences. In front of it there is a checkpoint and many other look-out posts are placed along the fence.

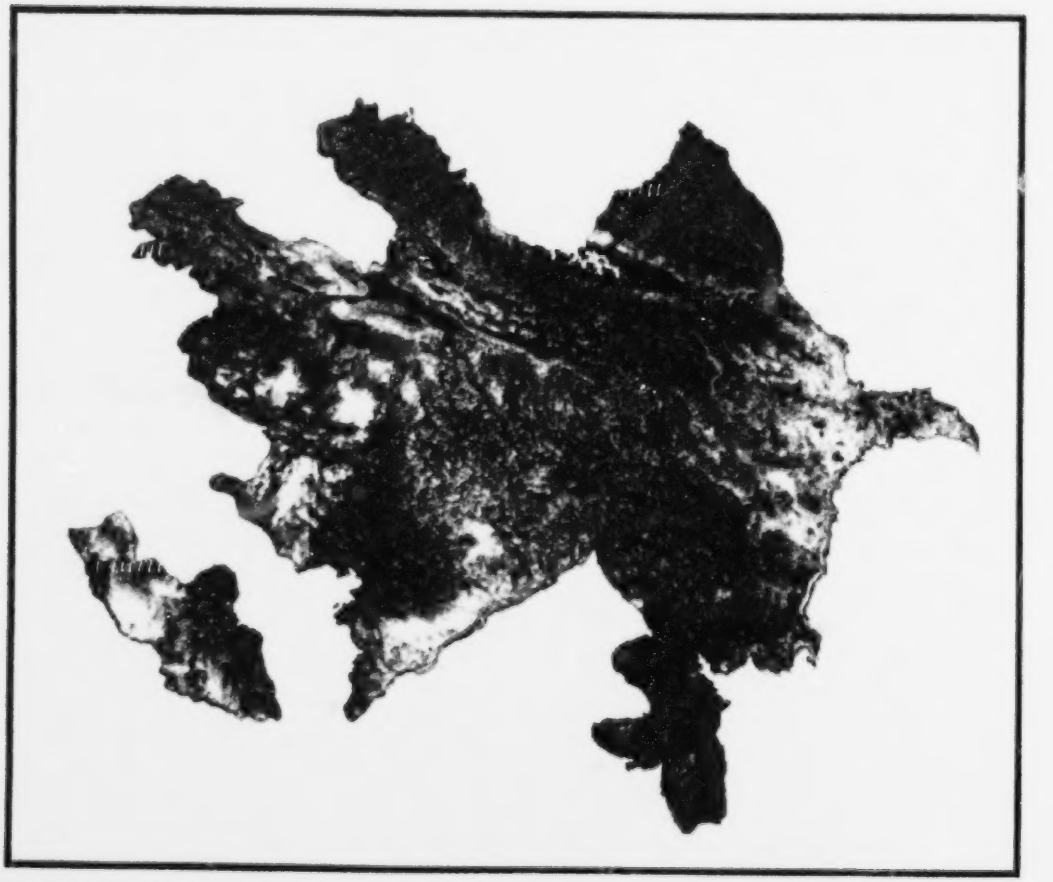
Some houses are covered with new white metallic roofs. Such kind of metallic roofs are shining certain period until they are new and there is a clear view of these roofs' metal shining at the sun. Other houses are red colored, these are completely new or reconstructed buildings.

Image G 4. This is a fragment from satellite capturing of Shusha in October 2003. Comparison show clear differences between the images of 2003 and 2004. With the passage of time the number of rebuild or newly erected buildings is growing, so is the number of settlers.

Annex II to the letter dated 28 February 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Republic of Azerbaijan

SPACE IMAGES
OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES
OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN



Reg. № 03 / 10 - m / 2005
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Azerbaijan

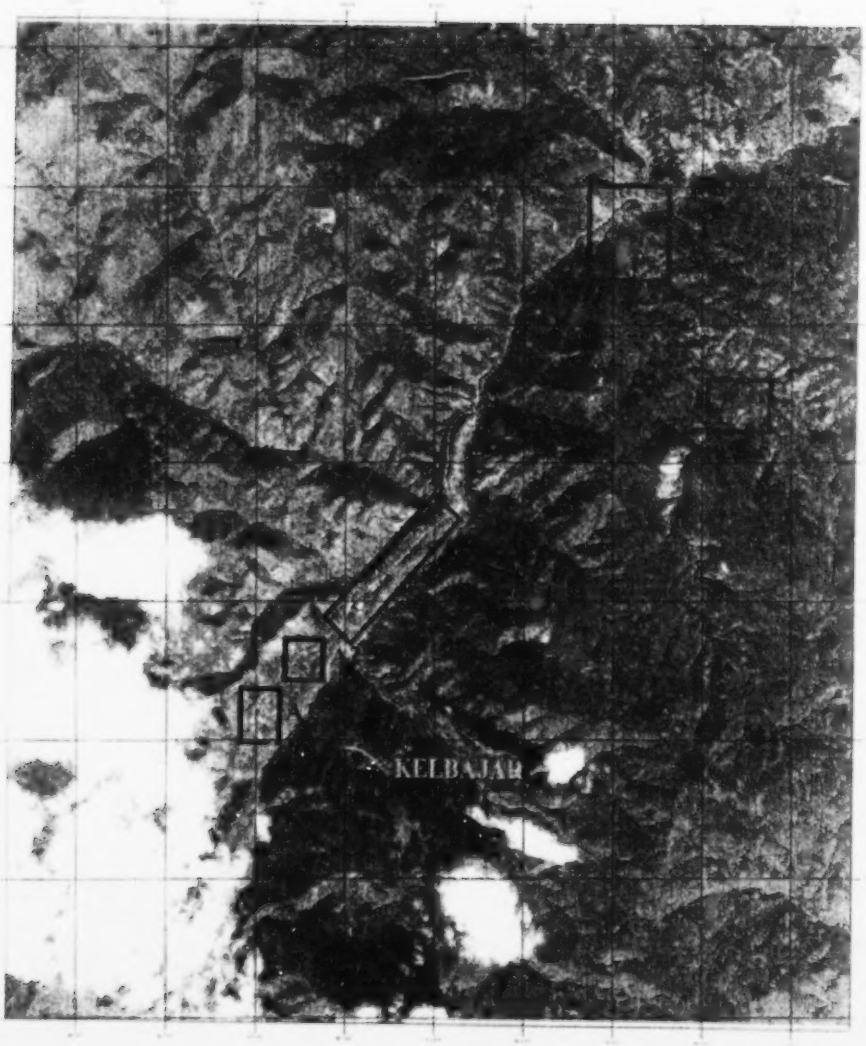
EXPLANATORY NOTE

These images were produced on the basis of decoding of high resolution (0,8 meter) multispectoral space photography made from a sattelite. They cover the occupied territories of the following regions of Azerbaijan: Kelbajar, Lachin, Zangilan, Gubadly and Agdam, as well as towns of Khankandi and Shusha.

The territories with the signs of transfer of Armenian settlers are classified by the following letters:

A - Kelbajar
B - Gubadly
C - Zangilan
D - Lachin highway
E - Lachin
F - Agdam
G - Nagorno-Karabakh region

International boundary of Azerbaijan
Administrative line of the former NKAO of Az.SSR
Line of occupation



Kelbajar region (the survey was made on 02/09/2004)

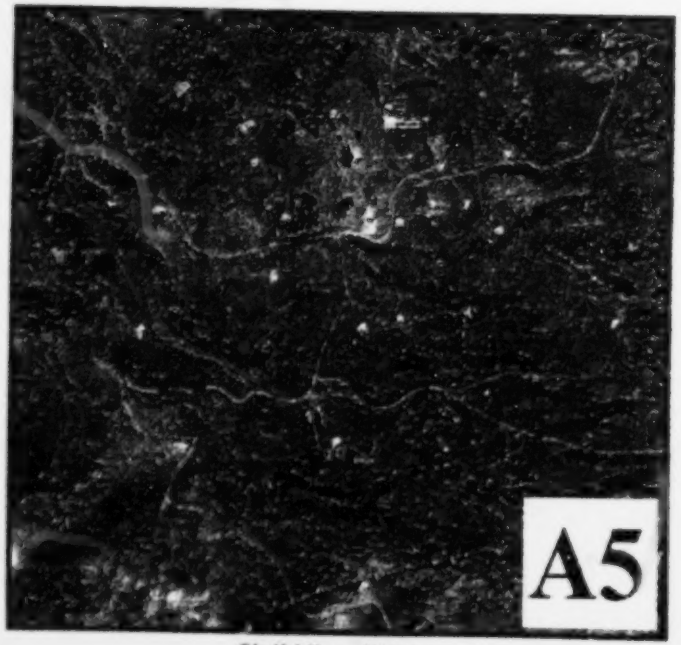
Within the examined territory of Kelbajar region 172 one-storied and 12 many-storied buildings were identified. The series of factors prove that these buildings are being currently inhabited. Those buildings are in good condition with reconstructed roofs and cultivated farmlands nearby while surroinding them buildings are completely ruined. All reconstructed houses are mainly along the road. There are cars and trucks on the road. The functioning military autopark with 14 units of trucks, series of cars and equipment were found in this territory. In the region there are many plough-lands and cultivated farmlands which sharply differs from adjacent non-cultivated and deserted agricultural lands.

Reg. №03 / 10 - ai / 2005
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Azerbaijan

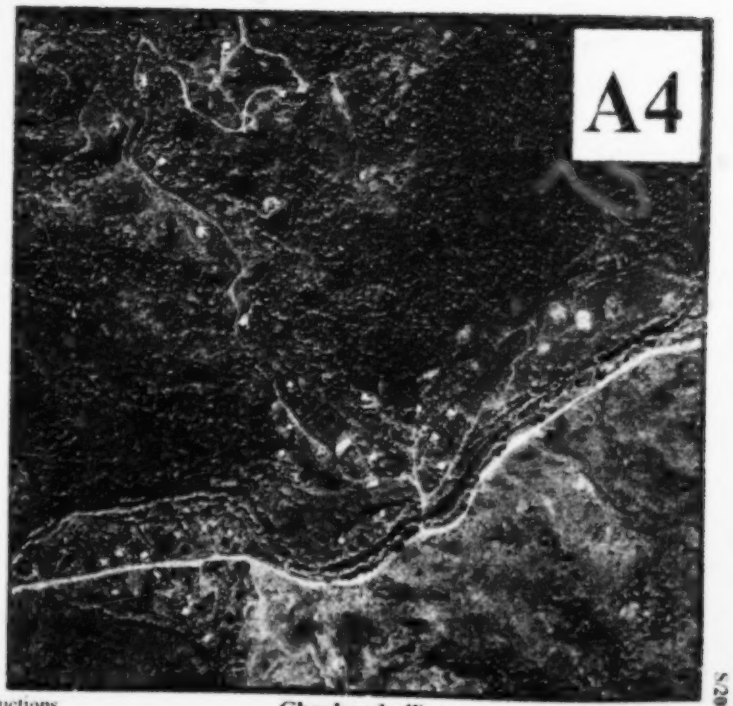
KELBAJAR

North-East outskirt of Kelbajar town

Residential constructions



Sinihkise village



Residential constructions

Chaykend village

A/59/730
S/2005/132

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Ministry of Foreign Affairs
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Military installations and administrative buildings

Residential constructions. (Center of Kelbajar town)

KELBAJAR

B.Gubadly(the survey was made on 02/09/2004)

In the examined territory of Gubadly region 22 military and industrial installations were identified, including military airfield with a group of tanks nearby.
Large areas of agricultural lands are developed and sown. These areas are in sharp contrast with surrounding ones - deserted, non-cultivated and devastated.

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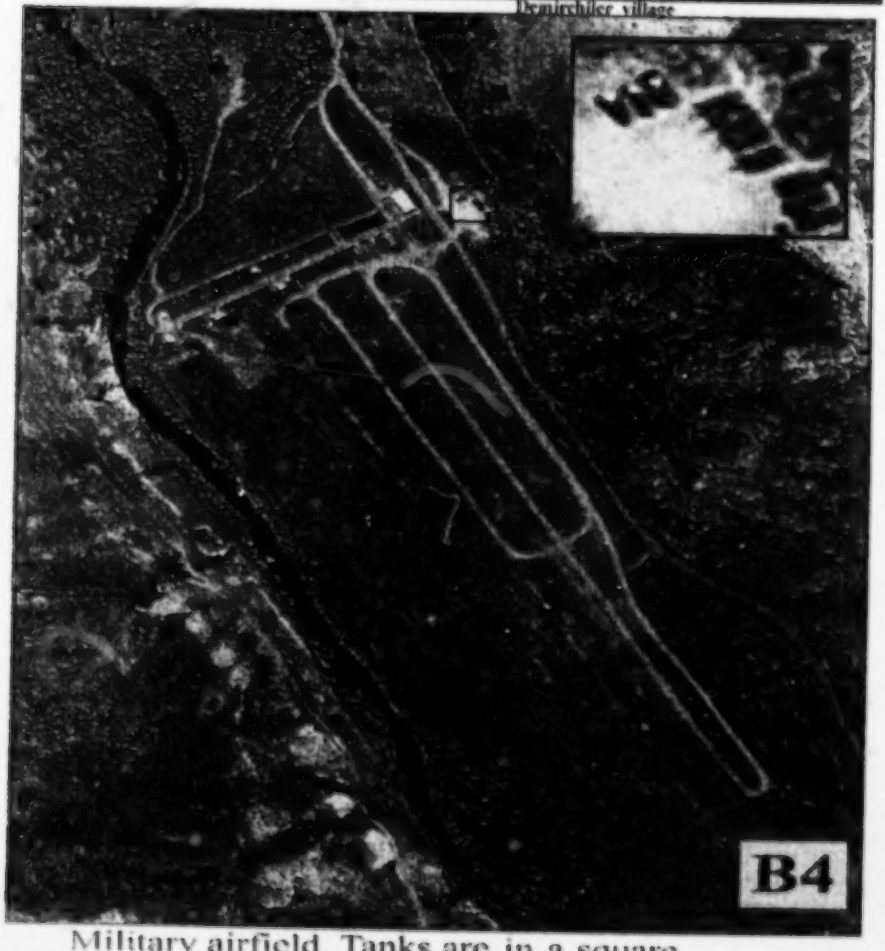
Gubadly town

Military installations and administrative buildings

GUBADLY

Tanks (Yukhari Gubadli)

Demirchiler village



Military airfield. Tanks are in a square

GUBADLY

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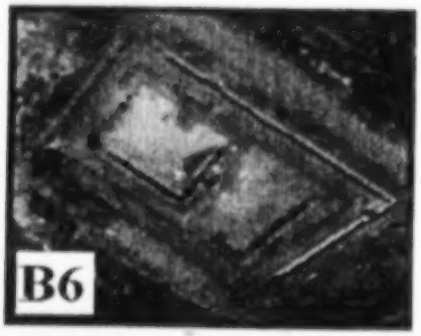
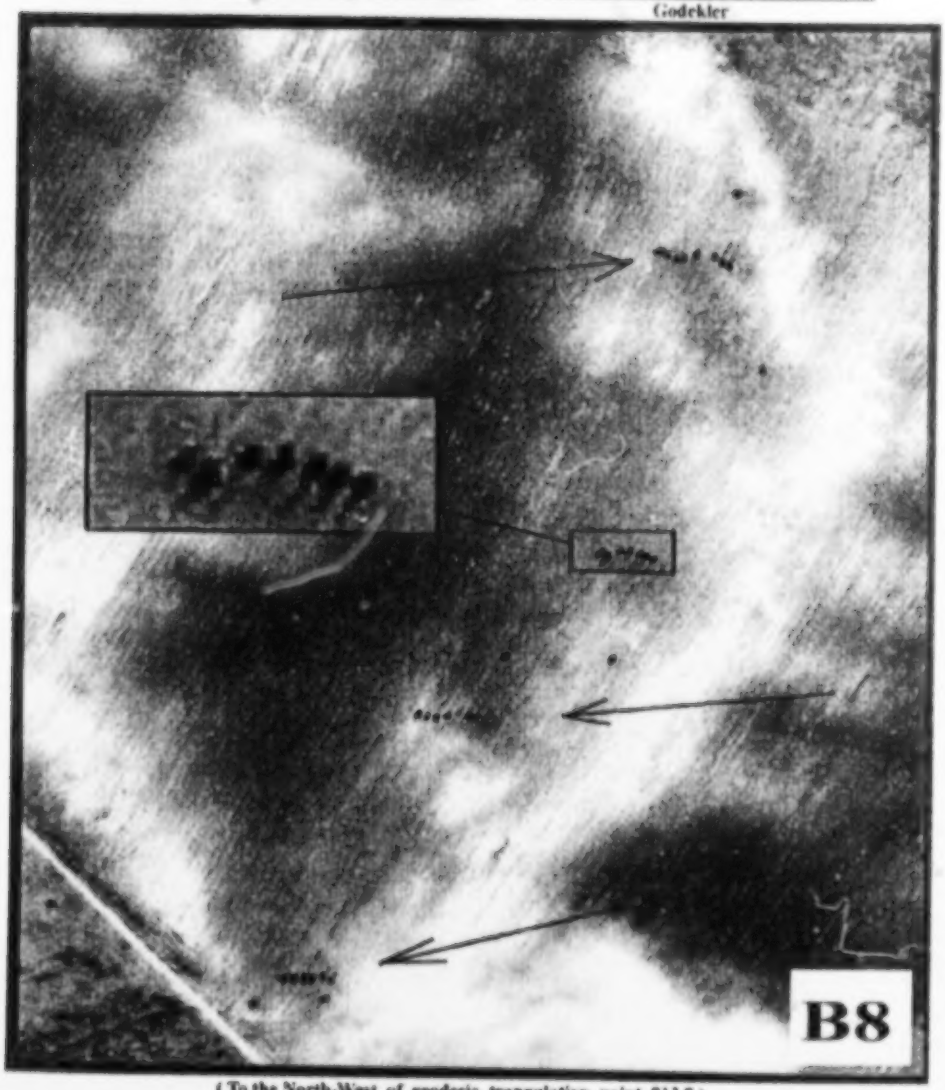
of the Republic of Azerbaijan

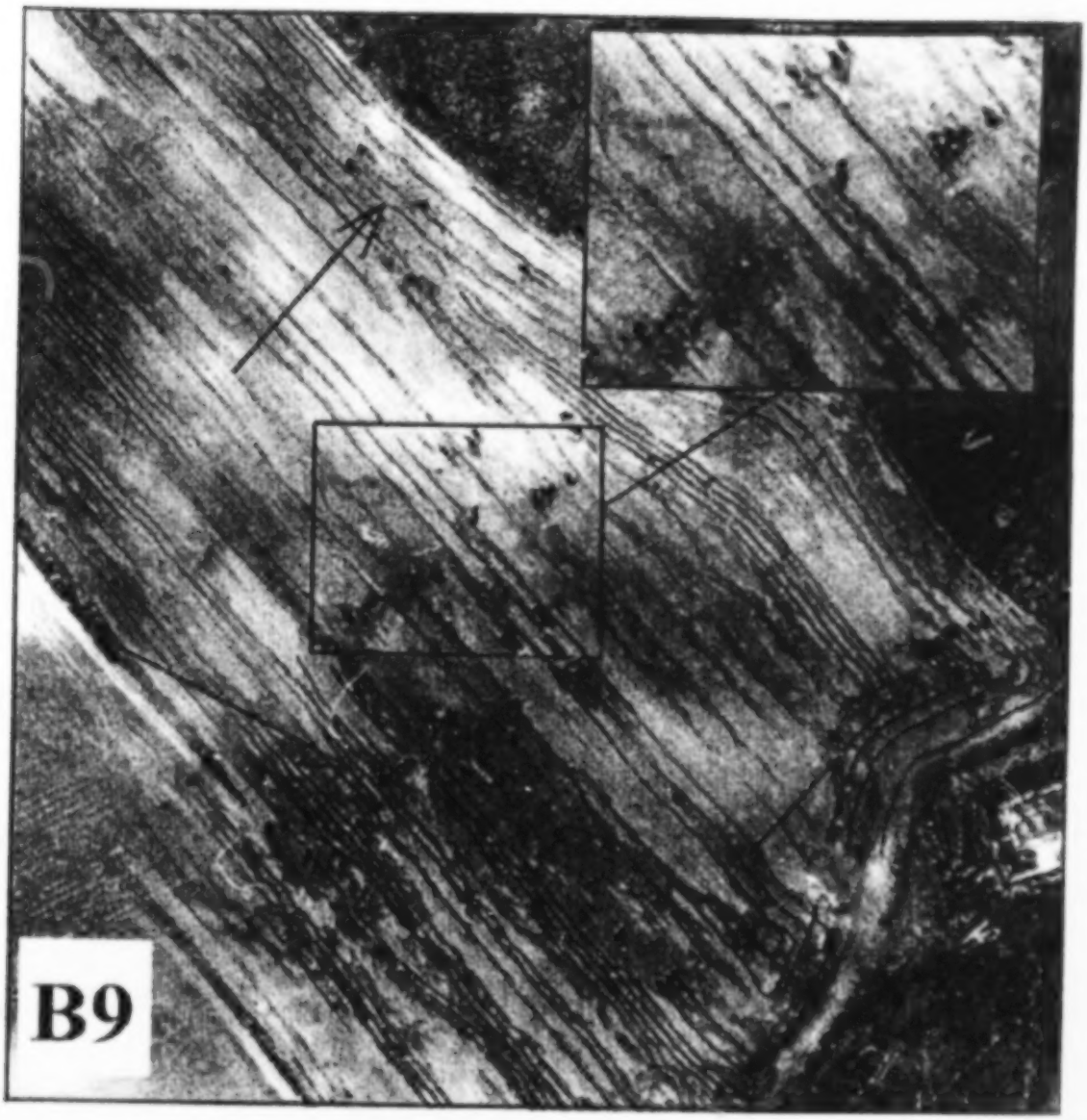


Godekler



(To the North-West of grodesic trangulation point 813,8)

GUBADLY



GUBADLY

Zangilan (the survey was made on 02/09/2004)

In the examined territory of Zangilan more than 10 inhabited one-storied and 5 many-storied buildings were identified. In the territory of the region agricultural works are carried on. Furrows in the fields, delineated borders, including plantings can be observed there.

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Plots of cultivated agricultural lands

Plots of uncultivated agricultural lands

The area with cultivated and not-cultivated lands.

To the South of the area is Girikh Mushlan village, to the North of it is Melikli village, to the North-East is Mushlan village.

ZANGILAN

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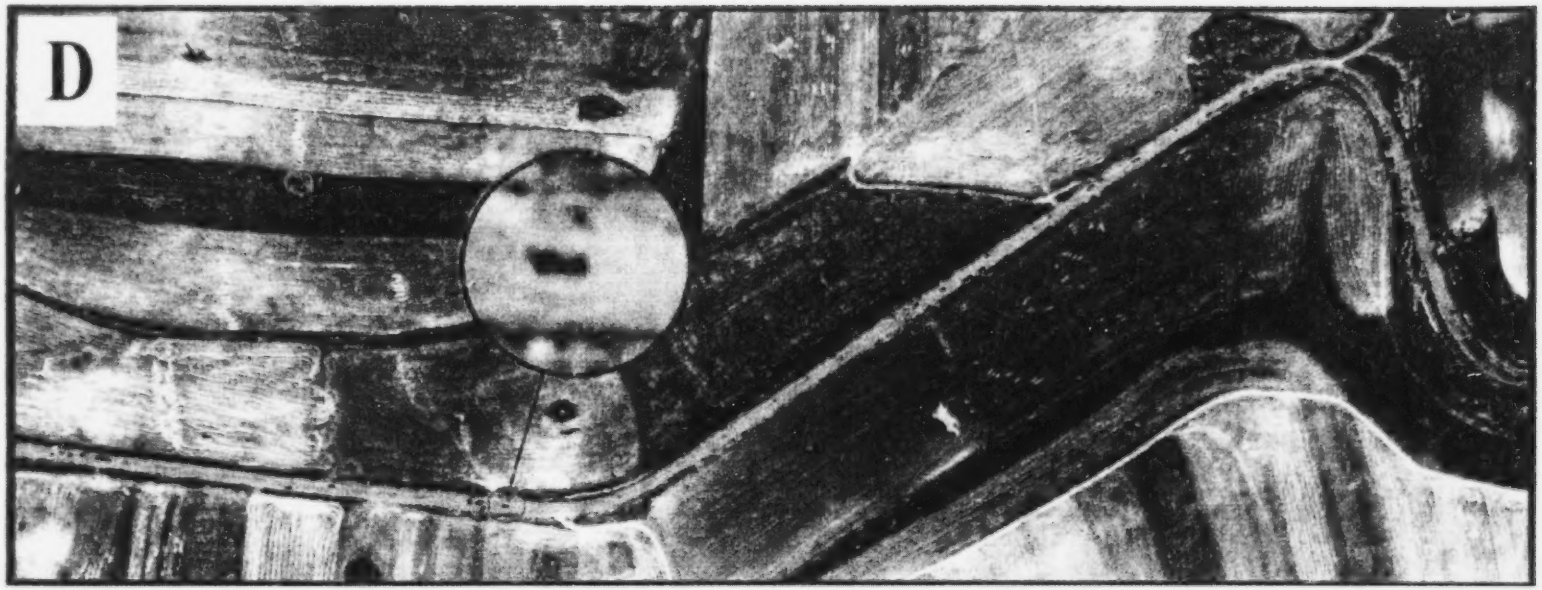

Highway

Lachin corridor (the survey was made on 02/09/2004)

The road from Goris (Armenia) to Lachin (Azerbaijan) was monitored. At the moment of the survey more than 50 vehicles were identified on the road, 35 of which were trucks.

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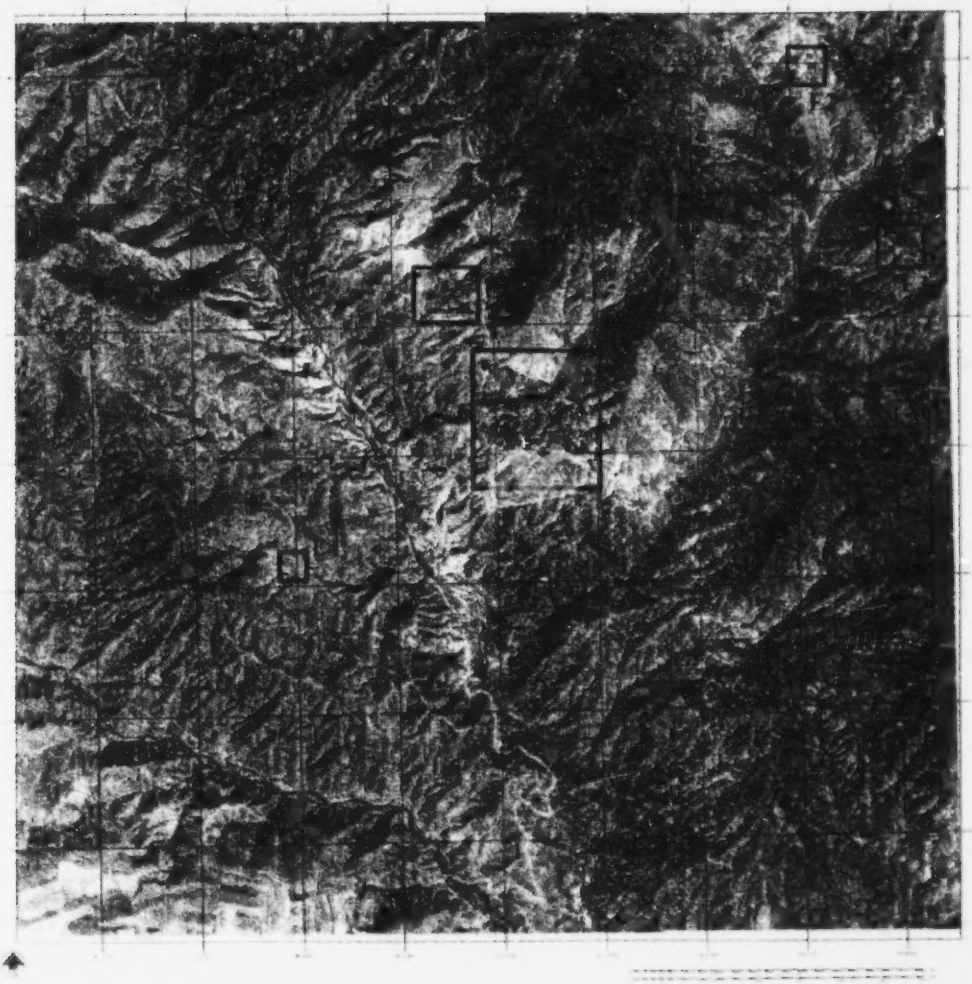

Lachin (the survey was made on 23/08/2004)

The territory of Lachin region is being most actively settled. About 90 % of buildings and installations have been reconstructed and settled. In the territory of the region more than 260 inhabited buildings are identified, 40 % of which are many-storied. The active traffick of cars and trucks was monitored. The large territories are used for cattle breeding and agriculture.

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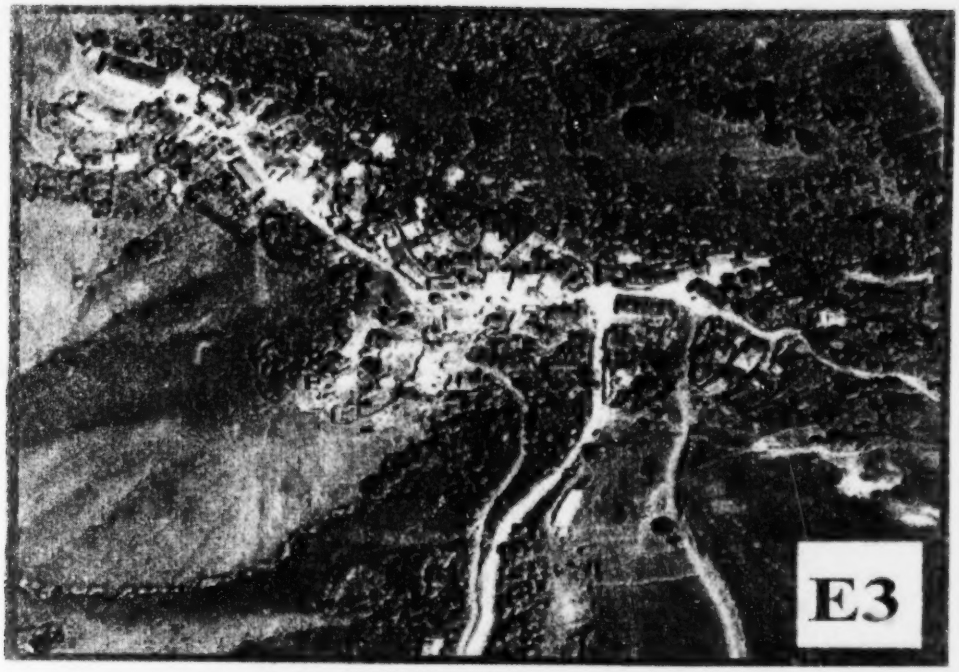
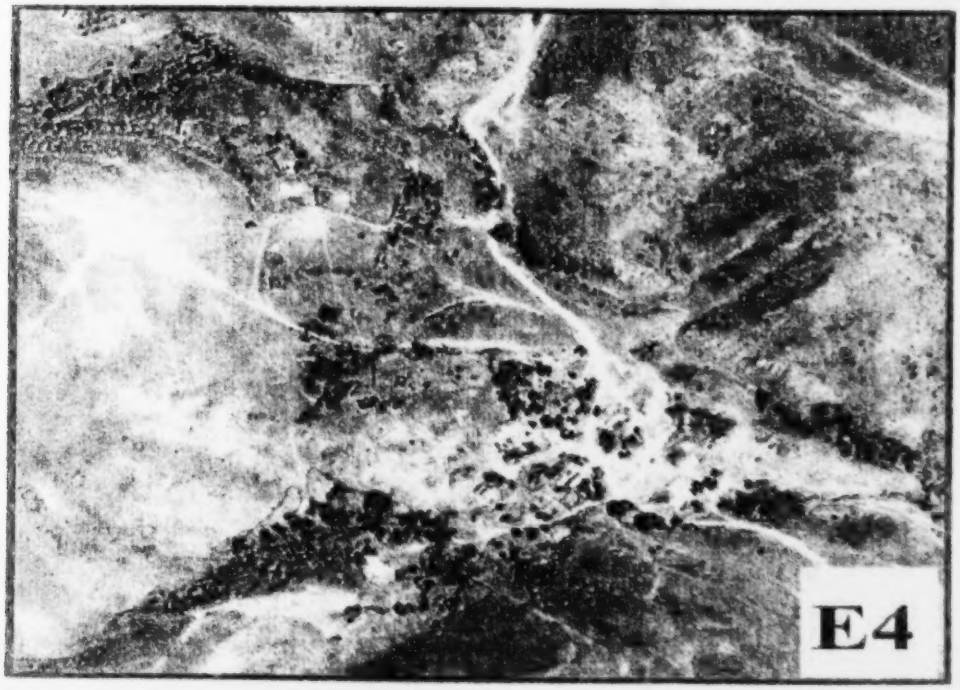
LACHIN

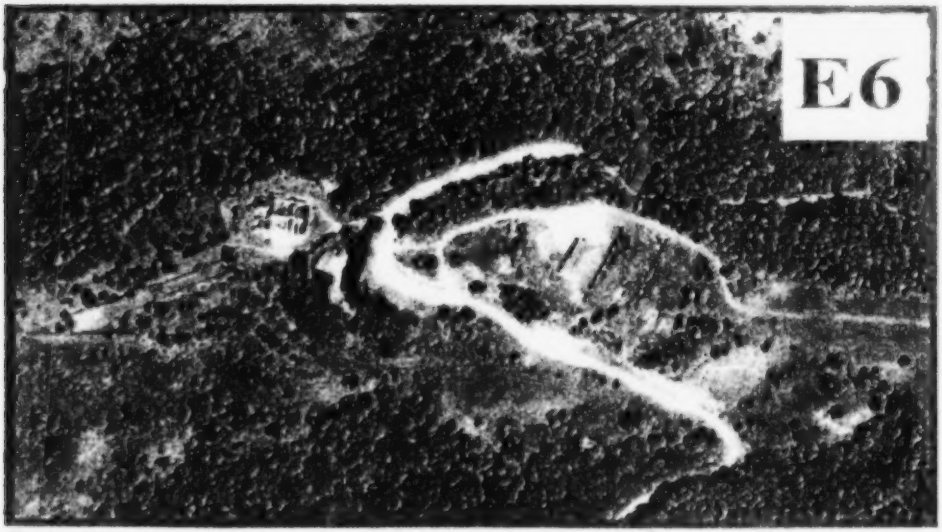
Residential constructions



Metskaladeresi



Sus
Residential constructions
LACHIN



Residential constructions

LACHIN

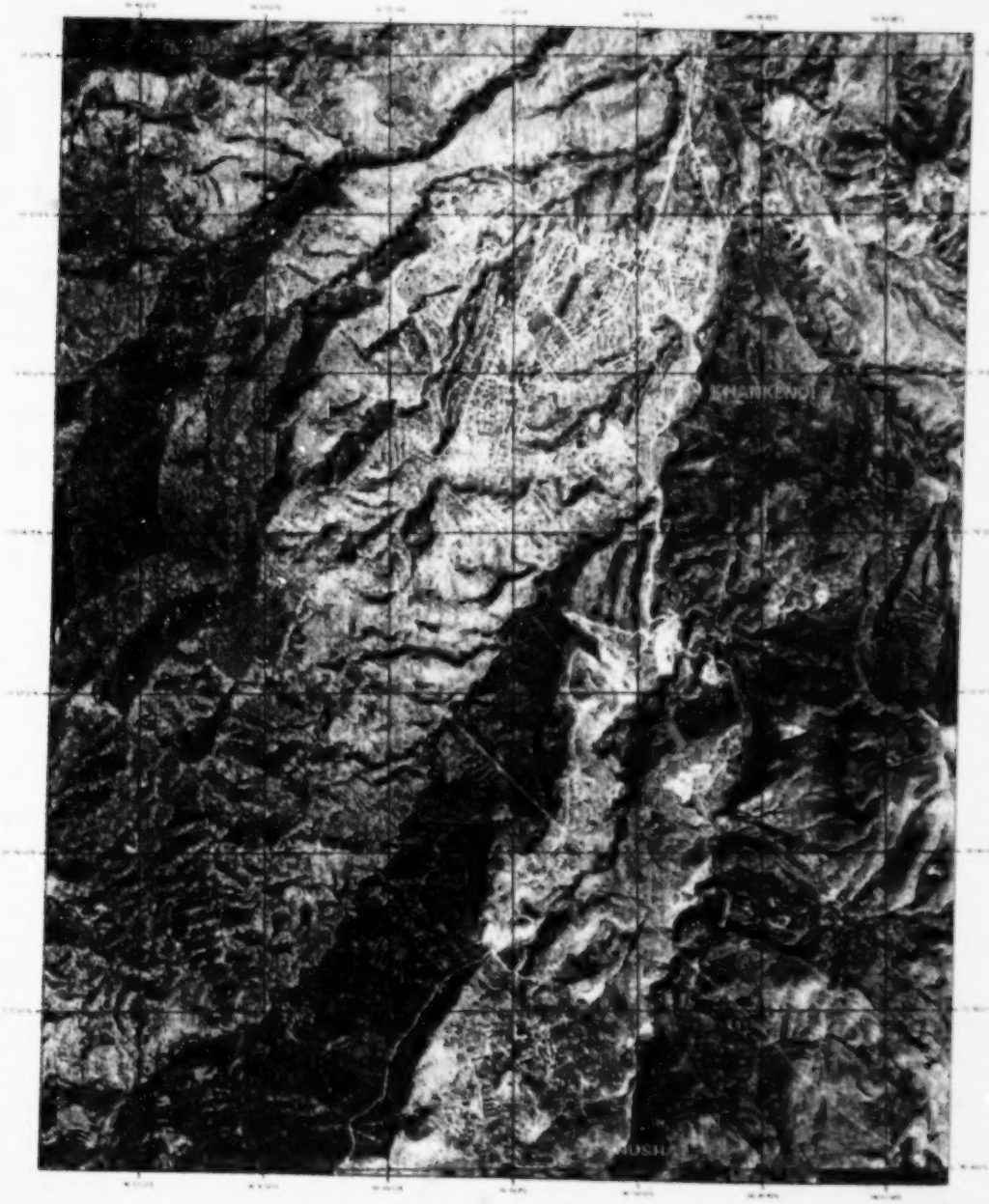
Lachin town

LACHIN

1:100000

Cultivated arable areas around Aghdam city

AGDAM



KHANKENDI, SHUSHA

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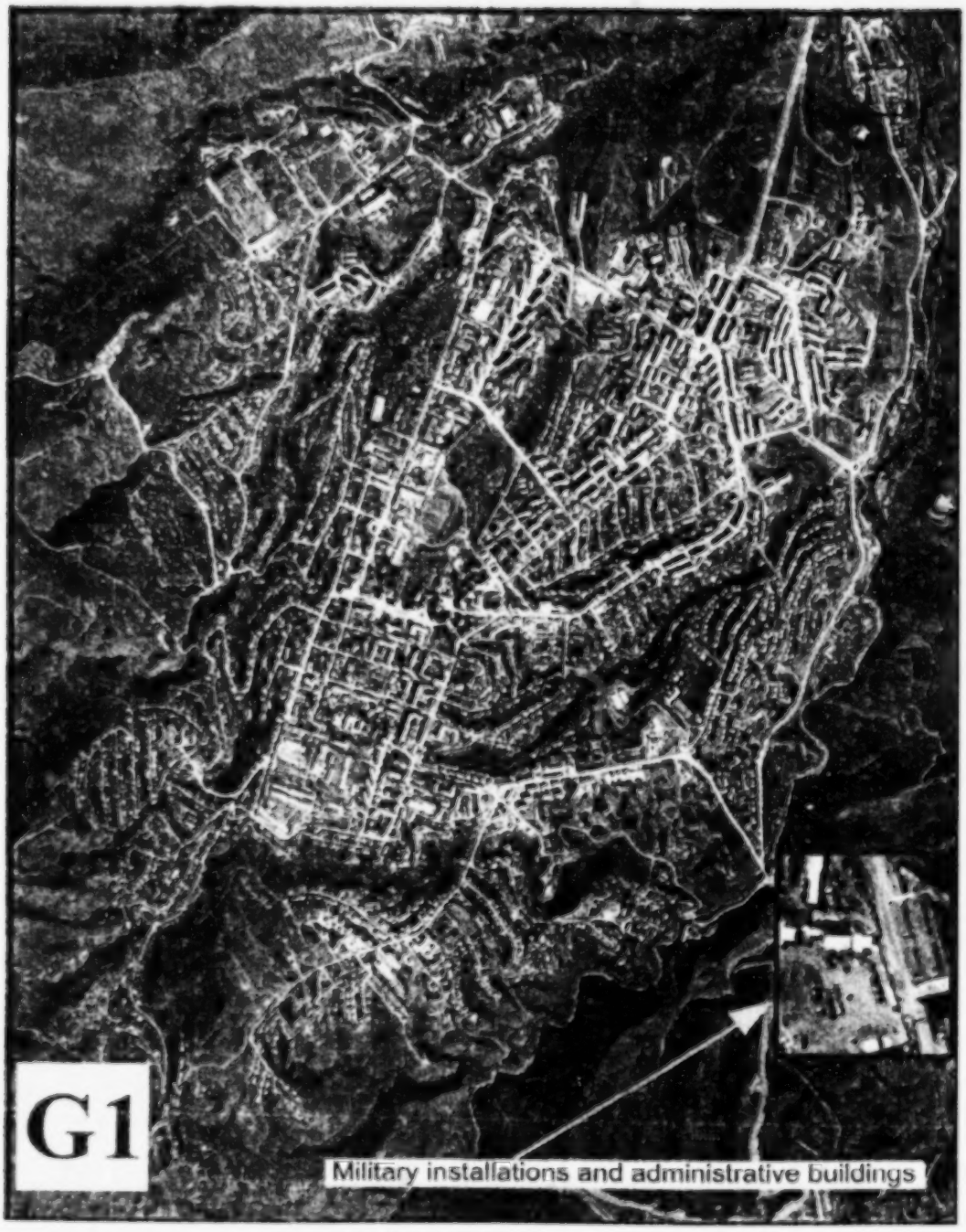
of the Republic of Azerbaijan



KHANKENDI

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S/2005/132

KHANKENDI

A/59/720
S/2005/132
Reg. № 03 / 10 - m / 2005
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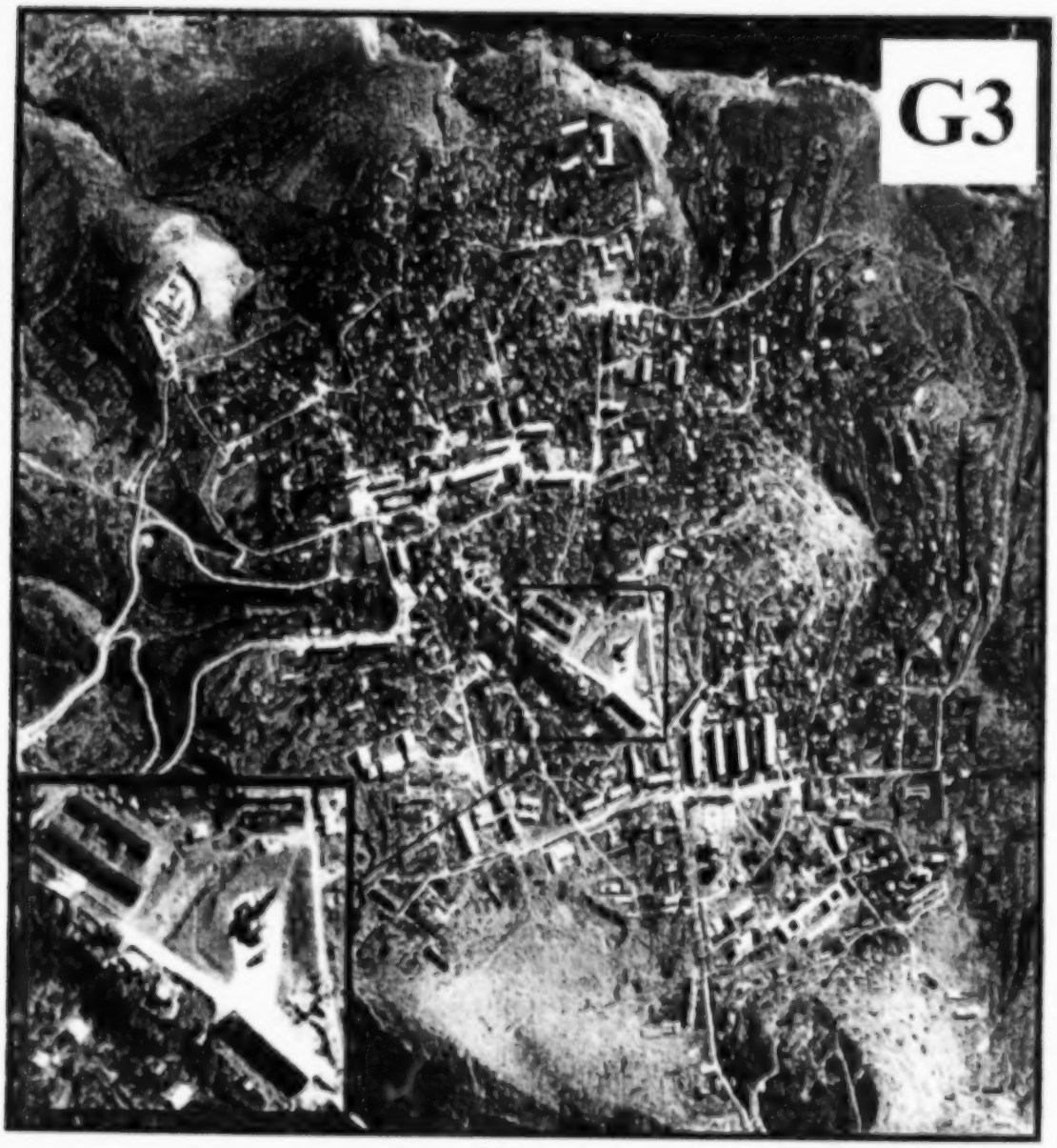

SHUSHA

Reg. № 03 / 10 - m / 2005
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of the Republic of Azerbaijan

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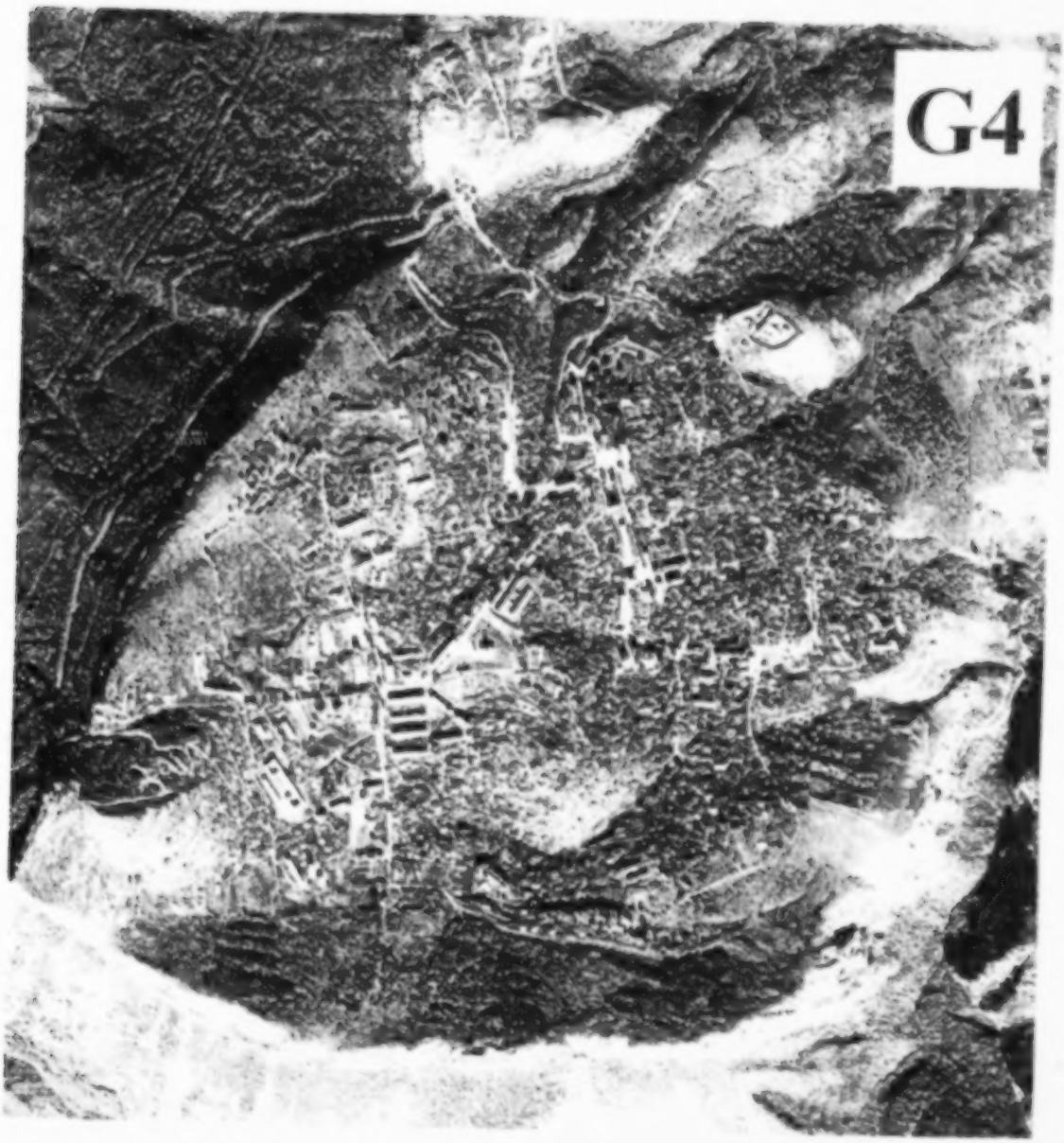

SHUSHA

United Nations A/59/720/Corr.1-S/2005/132/Corr.1

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
11 March 2005

Original: English

General Assembly
Fifty-ninth session
Agenda item 163
The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Security Council
Sixtieth year

Letter dated 28 February 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Corrigendum

1. In paragraph 2, the first sentence *should read*

   Likewise, the policy of settlement runs contrary to the process of peaceful settlement of the conflict, harms the negotiations, pre-empts their outcome and attempts compelling Azerbaijan to reconcile to fait accompli situation.

2. In paragraph 3, the first sentence *should read*

   Notwithstanding the efforts of the Government of Armenia to conceal its direct involvement in the transfer projects, the high-level working group on the implementation of a large-scale settlement transfer programme called "Return to Artsax" is headed by Andranik Margaryan, Prime Minister of Armenia, with the participation of Benik Bakhshiyan, Counsellor, Gagik Eganyan, Head of Department of Migration and Refugees of the Republic of Armenia and other senior officials, as well as Yerkir, a non-governmental organization.

3. Footnote 9 *should read*

   See annexes I and II (the original coloured images in pdf format may be consulted on ODS).

05-26695 (E) 110305

United Nations S/2005/133

Security Council

Distr.: General
2 March 2005
English
Original: French

Letter dated 25 February 2005 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1528 (2004), of 27 February 2004.

I should like to inform you that I intend to appoint Mr. Pierre Schori (Sweden) as my Special Representative and Head of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire.

I should be grateful if you would bring this letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

05-25400 (E) 030305 030305

United Nations S/2005/134

Security Council

Distr.: General
2 March 2005

Original: English

Letter dated 2 March 2005 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that your letter dated 25 February 2005 (S/2005/133) concerning your intention to appoint Pierre Schori (Sweden) as your Special Representative and Head of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire has been brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council. They take note of the intention expressed in your letter.

(*Signed*) Ronaldo Mota **Sardenberg**
President of the Security Council

05-25406 (E) 030305

United Nations S/2005/135

Security Council

Distr.: General
2 March 2005

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General on inter-mission cooperation and possible cross-border operations between the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone, the United Nations Mission in Liberia and the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire

I. Introduction

1. In my 19 March 2004 report on the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) (S/2004/228), I indicated my intention to submit recommendations to the Security Council concerning mechanisms and activities that could be introduced to facilitate inter-mission cooperation and cross-border operations between the three United Nations peacekeeping missions in the West Africa subregion, namely UNAMSIL, the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) and the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI). Such mechanisms would aim to enhance a subregional approach in implementing the respective mandates of the three missions. In the same report, I identified a number of possible areas of inter-mission cooperation and cross-border activities, such as the sharing of assets among the missions; joint planning on issues pertaining to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration; cross-border liaison and information sharing by United Nations military observers; "hot pursuit" operations by peacekeeping forces; joint air patrolling; shared border responsibilities; and the possible establishment of a subregional reserve force and a regional joint mission analysis cell for the three missions. As many of the identified cross-border and inter-mission operations would have complex legal, political and operational implications, I requested UNAMSIL, UNMIL and UNOCI, in consultation with the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA), to conduct a study of these issues. The Security Council, in its presidential statement of 25 March 2004 (S/PRST/2004/7), expressed its intention to consider my recommendations regarding the issue of inter-mission cooperation.

2. The present report describes inter-mission cooperative activities that are under way in several areas of the respective mandates, identifies a number of potential areas for future cooperation, including cross-border operations, examines constraints that might limit such cooperation, and provides recommendations on those activities that are considered feasible. The report also examines the major political, operational and legal implications of inter-mission cooperation and cross-border operations.

05-25077 (E) 030305

II. Subregional context

3. The root causes, as well as the effects, of the conflicts in Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and Sierra Leone are intricately linked. Restoration of durable peace in the subregion consequently requires that a number of key issues be addressed at both the national and subregional level. These include the maintenance of security and preventing the spillover of conflict between the three countries; the use of children associated with armed forces and groups; the implementation of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes for ex-combatants; and the cross-border flow of weapons, combatants and refugees. Some of these issues are included in my progress report of 11 February 2005 on ways to combat subregional and cross-border problems in West Africa (S/2005/86).

4. The presence of UNOWA, the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNOGBIS) and United Nations peacekeeping missions in Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and Sierra Leone provides an opportunity to pursue a subregional approach to addressing these and other key issues. It also allows for enhanced coordination of political, military and humanitarian efforts, as well as for a more efficient use of logistics and administrative resources.

III. Legal, political and financial implications

5. UNOCI, UNAMSIL and UNMIL are each mandated to act under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. In accordance with their individual mandates, they can currently carry out operations only within the respective countries in which they are deployed. Therefore, in order to conduct some of the inter-mission operations identified in the present report, the Security Council would need to authorize appropriate adjustments to the mandates of the individual missions.

6. Assuming the Council were to do this, a number of political and legal considerations would need to be addressed in carrying out the envisaged inter-mission operations in which personnel from one peacekeeping force would undertake activities in one or both of the other mission areas. In this regard, such military operations would require the consent of the Governments in which the missions are deployed. In addition, troop-contributing countries would need to agree to the use of their troops and equipment in more than one mission area. Adjustments would therefore be required to the memorandums of understanding between the United Nations and troop contributors. Arrangements would also need to be made with each of the Governments concerned to extend the protection, privileges, immunities, exemptions and facilities in the missions' respective status of forces agreements to United Nations personnel and property from other missions that might be deployed or operate in the State concerned as part of inter-mission operations.

7. Financial and staffing constraints need to be taken into account in expanding subregional cooperation. Currently, budgets are mission-specific; extensive inter-mission cooperation would require significant changes to the budgetary process and budgetary estimates. Furthermore, the question of delegation of authority for subregionally managed assets and services would have to be examined. Additionally, the subregional reallocation of assets would need to be coordinated

with United Nations Headquarters so as to take into account global peacekeeping priorities and requirements.

IV. Areas of inter-mission cooperation

A. Information sharing and joint planning to support the peace processes in Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and Sierra Leone

1. Current inter-mission cooperation activities

8. UNAMSIL, UNMIL and UNOCI routinely share information on political and security developments and other issues affecting the peace processes and stability within the three countries in which they are deployed. A primary means to that end is through the regular exchange of daily, weekly and monthly comprehensive situation reports, military situation reports and reports on other issues, as appropriate. UNMIL and UNAMSIL have also established joint mission analysis cells, currently staffed primarily with military personnel, which gather and analyse information to produce reports that assist in guiding the military and political strategies of the respective missions.

9. The regular meetings of my special representatives for Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone and West Africa and my Representative for Guinea-Bissau, and also of those of the three force commanders, convened under the aegis of UNOWA, are important forums for assessing political and security developments and trends, and for developing integrated subregional strategies to promote peace and security within the subregion.

2. Areas for future inter-mission cooperation

10. UNAMSIL, UNMIL and UNOCI should enhance cooperation regarding information-sharing and joint strategy formulation. In this connection, the missions, together with UNOWA, will establish an inter-mission working group, which will include representatives of political affairs, military, civil affairs, civilian police, humanitarian affairs, human rights and legal affairs. Under the guidance of my special representatives, it will focus on developing long-term strategies in support of the peace processes in the three regions and coordinating joint activities. The working group will also facilitate the sharing of lessons learned regarding support to the peace processes. The working group could consider the harmonization of exit strategies of the three missions with a view to avoiding a situation in which a mission is withdrawn at a time when there is a high risk of instability because of the spillover effects of conflict in a neighbouring country.

11. The expansion of the joint mission analysis cells to include staff from the main substantive areas of a mission will lead to more effective information management, which is key to operational effectiveness in that it enables a mission to anticipate problems and plan coherently. Fully functional and inclusive joint mission analysis cells will seek information from sources within and outside of the mission. They will cross-reference the information, analyse it and produce reports and documents that inform decision-making by the senior management teams. While the establishment of a joint mission analysis cell in UNOCI will be a useful information management tool, it will prove essential for the arms embargo monitoring process.

Close coordination between the joint mission analysis cells of the three missions will facilitate monitoring of the subregional security situation including in border areas and the conduct of subregional security threat assessments. UNOWA and UNOGBIS should also be included in joint mission analysis cell activities. Once such joint mission analysis cells have been established, the benefit of setting up a regional joint mission analysis cell should be considered. Meanwhile, the inter-mission working group will coordinate and facilitate information sharing between the missions.

12. My special representatives will apprise the respective Governments of major decisions made at their meetings and consult with them, in close cooperation with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), on coordinated strategies to address common challenges among the three countries. In this connection, my special representatives for West Africa, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and Sierra Leone will continue to encourage dialogue among the Mano River Union Governments of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, and also Côte d'Ivoire. The three missions, working closely with UNOWA, could also explore with the Mano River Union countries possibilities of supporting their efforts to reactivate the Union, especially with regard to the implementation of security-related confidence-building measures. Steps are being taken to further increase cooperation with ECOWAS, in joint efforts to support peace and stability in the Mano River Union and the wider West Africa subregion. In this regard, consideration is being given to the idea of deploying a liaison officer for the three missions at ECOWAS headquarters in Abuja.

13. The missions will continue to provide support to civil society groups, including interfaith organizations, women's and youth groups and human rights organizations that are working on initiatives to promote peace, security and reconciliation in the Mano River Basin countries and the wider West Africa subregion. Support could be provided for such initiatives within the respective mission areas to help build networks of activists, mobilize grass-roots support for the peace processes and the implementation of various reconciliation and confidence-building activities nationally and within the Mano River Basin.

B. Military operations

Current inter-mission cooperation activities

Liaison between the peacekeeping forces

14. Links have been established between the Force Headquarters of the three missions at various levels. Since December 2003, the UNMIL, UNAMSIL and UNOCI force commanders have met regularly. Issues discussed have included security developments and threats, contingency planning regarding security threats and the concept of an operational level subregional force reserve. An inter-mission secretariat has been established to coordinate the force commanders' meetings and follow-up actions. Liaison officers have also been exchanged between the force headquarters and mechanisms are in place for liaison and coordination between the peacekeeping forces deployed in adjacent sectors in the three countries. These include daily exchanges of information and cross-border inter-mission meetings between sector and unit commanders and military observers.

15. The regular force commanders' meetings should be coordinated with those of the special representatives to better facilitate political and military integration between the missions. As far as possible, they will also be attended by personnel from the Military Division of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to provide a Headquarters perspective and to further improve coordination. Furthermore, ways of enhancing liaison at all levels between the three force headquarters and the peacekeeping contingents in adjacent sectors will be explored.

Potential areas for cross-border military operations

16. Enhanced cooperation between the UNOCI, UNMIL and UNAMSIL forces could help improve security along the shared borders and assist the missions to more effectively address border security-related problems, including the cross-border flow of weapons and combatants. The missions could also help monitor population movements across the borders and improve the security of communities living along border areas. Such cooperation would avoid duplication of tasks, thus allowing a more optimal utilization of resources. Potential areas for cross-border operations include: "hot pursuit" operations; joint air patrols; shared border responsibility; border crossing point responsibility; and pre-planned ground operations.

17. The implementation of cross-border operations are currently subject to the constraints outlined in paragraph 6 above. Additionally, it would require training, rehearsal and exercises, and issues of command and control and clear rules of engagement would also need to be carefully addressed. The forces on the ground would also need the capacity to communicate effectively across borders. Systems would need to be in place to ensure communication between each mission's air assets and the three missions' air operations systems. Enhanced cooperation would minimize the duplication of tasks in some operational areas, thus allowing for a reduction in costs. However, such other areas as inter-mission military exercises could incur considerable financial costs. Therefore, the cost implications of such cross-border operations will need to be carefully examined. In carrying out ground operations, the movement and activities of local security forces would need to be taken into account and the political approval from the host countries will be required in the form of a memorandum of understanding.

18. *Hot pursuit.* Hot pursuit operations are defined as unplanned military movements across a border, either in response to a specific incident or where a significant tactical advantage would otherwise be missed. They are complex and high-risk operations, requiring substantial preparation. While the complexities of hot pursuit operations should not preclude further discussion, the reality is that they are not feasible in the current circumstances and other areas for inter-mission cooperation should be given priority consideration.

19. *Joint air patrols.* Air patrolling along the Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and Sierra Leone borders is coordinated by the missions, with air assets from each mission being used to patrol the respective countries' border areas. A further step might be for air assets from one mission to be used to patrol routes spanning both sides of the border. Such joint air operations would avoid duplication of effort and reduce operational costs while also providing an effective means of monitoring, detecting and deterring illicit cross-border activity. They may require a strengthening of

communications capabilities to ensure effective communications between the air assets involved and the missions' aviation control systems.

20. *Cross-border patrols.* It is envisaged that one mission could carry out periodic, routine cross-border patrols into an adjacent area of another mission that did not have troops deployed along its side of the border. The effectiveness of such patrols would depend on available intelligence; prior coordination with the mission into whose area the patrols are deploying; clear rules of engagement and command and control arrangements; and the troops' knowledge of the situation and mandate of the adjacent mission. The use of unarmed military observers in that role might be more acceptable to the countries involved than using armed troops. The patrols could provide very useful reporting on the situation in border areas and also provide liaison with factions, local authorities and communities on the ground.

21. *Border crossing points.* United Nations military personnel are deployed to monitor activities at certain border crossing checkpoints in the countries in which the three missions are deployed. These checkpoints are usually staffed by national security agencies and are generally some distance apart on each side of the respective borders. In such cases, coordination between the personnel of two adjacent missions has generally been limited to sharing information. The effectiveness of the missions' border security operations could therefore be improved through enhanced sharing of information, available expertise and specialized resources. There are also more remote, unmanned border crossing points at which national security agencies are not present and where security operations are carried out through periodic visits by patrols.

22. *Extended areas of responsibility.* One mission could be charged with responsibility for operations in an adjacent area of a neighbouring country. Such an arrangement, in which the operational area would overlap an international border, could be foreseen in certain places along the borders between Liberia and Sierra Leone and Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia. This type of operation could be used if one mission had readily available troops in a particular border area and easy access to the adjacent area in the neighbouring country over which it would have responsibility. This might be particularly advantageous when a mission was drawing down but a United Nations presence would still be beneficial in certain areas of the country. Under such arrangements, personnel from one mission could also undertake border monitoring responsibilities at checkpoints staffed with national security agencies on each side of a border.

23. *Pre-arranged, coordinated operations.* Pre-arranged, coordinated military operations in which peacekeeping troops remain in their respective mission areas on adjacent sides of a border, while coordinating their activities, are particularly useful for tasks such as monitoring and deterring illegal cross-border activities, including the illegal flow of small arms. Steps should be taken jointly by the missions to organize such operations. In this regard, the deployment on both sides of the border of troops of the same nationality has proved to be particularly advantageous, as it facilitates the planning and ability to communicate in real time. For example, Pakistani troops are currently deployed in some areas along both sides of the border between Sierra Leone and Liberia, and Senegalese troops are deployed in border areas along the Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire border. When it is not possible to deploy troops from the same country on both sides of a border, troops from similar units (for example infantry units) and capability and who share a common language,

should be used. In all cases, such operations must be closely and effectively coordinated with local security forces.

24. *Establishment of a subregional reserve force.* UNMIL and UNAMSIL currently each have their own integral force level reserves, which can be quickly deployed into areas where there is little or no permanently deployed United Nations military presence. In the case of UNOCI, the force reserve continues to be provided by the French Licorne force. The issue of a subregional operational level reserve force, based in one mission but able to deploy to operate in all three mission areas, needs to be pursued. Establishment of such a flexible force could have a considerable impact in crisis situations, and could provide a strong United Nations presence in areas where it otherwise would have a limited or no troop presence. The establishment of regional operational-level reserve force would require considerable flexibility in terms of the mandate given to the troops involved, as well as agreement from troop contributors for their troops to be used in cross-border operations and the agreement of the States to which the force might be deployed. Specialized troops with particular training or equipment would probably be required if, as required, their deployment were to have an immediate impact. An operational "hub" that could act as a centre for command and control would need to be established in the lead mission.

25. The effectiveness of such a reserve force would depend on the capacity to rapidly deploy it. The three missions currently lack the capacity to move a subregional reserve in a timely and effective manner. Furthermore, the costs of the training and conduct of exercises by such a force, as well as the maintenance of its logistical support in each of the three mission areas, would be considerable.

26. In consultation with the Governments concerned, ECOWAS and the Mano River Union, the missions will continue to explore the practicalities and benefits of these various potential areas for cooperation and assess how the constraints identified might be addressed.

C. Disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and arms control measures

1. Current inter-mission cooperation activities

27. The United Nations presences in West Africa have made progress towards harmonizing disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes in the subregion. Workshops to help develop a regional plan for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration were held in Dakar on 21 May and on 5 and 6 August 2004 and were attended by representatives of the three peacekeeping missions, UNOWA, UNOGBIS, United Nations agencies and development partners. There was general agreement on the need for a subregional, harmonized approach to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes that take into account specific local political, economic and social factors. A third meeting focusing on a regional approach towards the implementation of the reintegration component in post-conflict situations is planned for April 2005.

28. Areas identified for inter-mission cooperation in implementing disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes included harmonization of planning and agreement on policies and eligibility criteria for special groups such as foreign

armed combatants and women and children associated with armed forces. It was also agreed that international standards and protocols, such as the Cape Town Principles and Best Practice on the Prevention of Recruitment of Children into the Armed Forces and Demobilization and Social Reintegration of Child Soldiers in Africa and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, must be applied when formulating programme policies.

29. Furthermore, it was recognized that there was a need to synchronize eligibility criteria on the type of weapons surrendered to qualify for inclusion in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes; policies on weapons handling and destruction; and the production and sharing of data regarding surrendered weaponry. The meetings also provided a very useful opportunity for sharing lessons learned.

30. An important area for inter-mission cooperation is in the repatriation of foreign ex-combatants, including children associated with armed forces and groups. There are some 435 Liberian ex-combatants in Sierra Leone and over 600 foreign combatants from Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea and Sierra Leone awaiting repatriation from Liberia. Agreements between the respective Governments, agencies and organizations involved are required for the repatriation and reintegration process. To this end, UNMIL is working with the National Transitional Government of Liberia in developing memorandums of understanding with neighbouring countries for the repatriation of adult foreign combatants. Between 12 and 16 January 2005, UNMIL and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) facilitated the visit of a National Transitional Government of Liberia team to Sierra Leone to discuss an agreement on the repatriation of Liberian ex-combatants. UNMIL and UNAMSIL are also working closely with the United Nations country teams and other partners in the subregion to facilitate the repatriation and resettlement of other foreign ex-combatants.

31. The harmonization of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes will also benefit from an agreement among the United Nations system on a common, overarching concept of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration. The Policy and Best Practices Unit of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations is coordinating the production of United Nations guidelines for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration operations. These guidelines, which are to be issued later in 2005, should be used by all missions. However, the latter must also take into account the varying political, social and economic contexts in which the programmes are being carried out.

32. Concern has been voiced over the cross-border movement of armed combatants attracted by reintegration opportunities offered in neighbouring countries. One solution put forward has been to harmonize the compensation packages offered to combatants. These tend to vary from country to country as they take into account country-specific variables such as local costs of living and average salaries. They also differ in terms of the mixture of cash payment and other services offered, for instance, vocational training or education. Close harmonization of these country-specific initiatives will therefore be difficult. It may be more realistic to ensure that the eligibility criteria used to access the national programmes are more widely disseminated and strictly applied so as to dissuade foreign combatants from moving into a country in false anticipation that they will be accepted into the disarmament programme there.

2. Areas for future inter-mission cooperation

33. The three missions are encouraged to increase their sharing of experiences in planning and implementing disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes. They will continue to work closely with Governments and partners in the region to support the repatriation of foreign ex-combatants, including women and children formerly associated with armed forces. They should also continue to pursue the development of a harmonized, subregional approach to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, while taking into account national social, economic and political contexts.

D. Combating the proliferation of small arms and light weapons

Areas for future inter-mission cooperation

34. The missions will work together to develop and share information relating to small arms and light weapons, including information on types and country of origin of weapons collected, arms flows and small arms and light weapons control programmes in each mission area. Such information should also be shared with the ECOWAS small arms control programme when it is launched later in 2005. In collaboration with ECOWAS and UNOWA, the missions could, through advocacy, training and support, assist the Governments of Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and Sierra Leone to develop appropriate national legislation and border security mechanisms to counter the illegal cross-border movement and use of small arms and light weapons. UNMIL and UNOCI are also working on modalities for cooperation regarding the monitoring of the arms embargo imposed on Côte d'Ivoire under Security Council resolution 1572 (2004) of 15 November 2004.

35. Following the completion of disarmament and demobilization in Sierra Leone, the Government and civil society organizations, with support from UNAMSIL and UNDP, implemented a community arms collection and destruction programme. This has resulted in the collection of significant numbers of small arms and light weapons from communities, which in return benefited from development assistance. Similar programmes are being considered in Liberia and would be beneficial in Côte d'Ivoire.

E. Civilian police operations

1. Current inter-mission cooperation activities

36. Cooperation between UNAMSIL, UNMIL and UNOCI in the area of civilian police operations has focused mainly on information sharing and exchanging lessons learned. In this connection, UNAMSIL civilian police personnel undertook a two-week assessment mission to Liberia and UNMIL civilian police officers visited the police training school at Hastings in Sierra Leone, where they were provided with material on basic recruit training. Additionally, the officers met with Sierra Leone police personnel to discuss issues relevant for the development of strategies by the UNMIL civilian police component.

37. To facilitate collaboration on addressing cross-border problems, UNAMSIL and UNMIL civilian police organized a visit by UNAMSIL civilian police commissioner and a Sierra Leone police delegation to Monrovia to meet with

Liberian national police personnel in April 2004 to begin the establishment of mechanisms for joint planning and the sharing of information. Following the visit, the need for the two countries to stem trafficking in drugs, persons, diamonds and scarce commodities, as well as cross-border arms proliferation was identified. Sierra Leone and Liberia were also urged to address security concerns related to the movement of refugees and to meet police training needs.

38. Furthermore, UNAMSIL organized, together with UNMIL civilian police personnel, a workshop on the standards of conduct and disciplinary procedures in United Nations peacekeeping missions in April 2004. With regard to scientific criminal investigations, UNAMSIL has provided officers from UNMIL civilian police Major Crime Section and from the Liberian national police with assistance in the scientific analysis of suspected illegal narcotics. Furthermore, UNMIL civilian police and the Legal and Judicial System Support Division assisted the Special Court for Sierra Leone when its Chief Prosecutor visited Liberia to collect evidence.

2. Areas for future inter-mission cooperation

39. The sharing of lessons learned, information and technical expertise between the three missions should be increased. Inter-mission visits by civilian police personnel and personnel from national police services and the organization of workshops on key issues would help strengthen the capacity of the civilian police to assist in the reform and restructuring of national police services.

40. The missions should work closely together to promote integrated policing and collaboration between national police forces when dealing with cross-border issues. Furthermore, they should provide technical support and advice for the harmonization of national police policies and practices in the subregion and seek to strengthen the capacity of national police forces to gather and share information.

41. The missions will also work to strengthen national programmes that address the illegal exploitation and cross-border movement of natural resources, including diamonds and timber, and trafficking in drugs and small arms and light weapons. Initiatives could include providing technical support and advice in harmonizing national policies and practices on these issues and, capacity-building of Government institutions.

42. The three peacekeeping missions, in collaboration with UNOWA and UNOGBIS, should study the possibility of cooperating with and drawing on the expertise of international or subregional police mechanisms such as Interpol or the West African Police Chiefs Committee, an institution operating within the framework of ECOWAS, under which member States consult on security-related issues.

F. Human rights

1. Current inter-mission cooperation activities

43. In July 2004, so as to assist in the establishment of a truth and reconciliation commission for Liberia, UNAMSIL assisted UNMIL in organizing a workshop in Monrovia on the role of truth commissions in transitional justice and peacebuilding. The three missions regularly exchange information on human rights issues and the activities of non-governmental organizations working in that field and collaborate in

training programmes, for instance on sexual exploitation and abuse. At the request of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNAMSIL sent a senior human rights officer to work with the International Commission of Inquiry established to investigate human rights violations committed in Côte d'Ivoire between September 2002 and October 2004.

2. Areas for future inter-mission cooperation

44. UNAMSIL, UNMIL and UNOCI will share monthly reports and other relevant information on their respective programmes and activities. The missions will continue to share strategies and experiences in the fields of monitoring, reporting and other areas of their mandates, including through periodic meetings of human rights officers to strengthen the missions' capacity to address the variety of human rights challenges they are facing.

45. UNOCI and UNMIL could benefit from UNAMSIL experiences in helping to establish and assist in the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the National Human Rights Commission in Sierra Leone. Moreover, it would be most useful if they could facilitate the sharing of lessons learned between the former commissioners on the Sierra Leone Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the future truth and reconciliation commissioners in Liberia. There should also be increased collaboration regarding women's and gender issues.

46. The human rights sections of the three missions will exchange experiences in training and capacity-building for police, corrections and army personnel, in areas including human rights and the administration of justice, women's rights, gender mainstreaming and sexual and gender-based violence, and strengthening national human rights protection systems.

47. Civil society activities throughout the subregion should also be further supported by sharing information on advocacy, sensitization and training strategies with civil society organizations on issues including democracy, good governance and human rights. The strengthening of civil society organizations that promote human rights and good governance in West Africa could help consolidate peace and subregional stability.

G. Child protection

1. Current inter-mission cooperation activities

48. UNAMSIL and UNMIL work closely together with the United Nations Children's Fund and child protection non-governmental organizations in Liberia and Sierra Leone, as well as with the ECOWAS Child Protection Adviser, to assist with the repatriation of Sierra Leonean children associated with armed forces and groups in Liberia and Sierra Leonean and Liberian refugee children. Furthermore, the UNAMSIL Child Protection Unit provided pre-deployment training for UNMIL and UNOCI military components and shared with the other missions the lessons learned from the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of children in Sierra Leone.

2. Areas for future inter-mission cooperation

49. The sharing by the peacekeeping missions of information and expertise on child protection issues, including the recruitment, use and movement of children associated with armed forces and groups in Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and Sierra Leone, should be improved. This will help increase the missions' capacity in child protection, including monitoring, investigation, documentation and reporting on abuses against children, particularly sexual abuse and exploitation; integration of child rights and protection into the training curricula of the national armies and police forces; juvenile justice in post-conflict scenarios; protection of children in transitional justice mechanisms, such as special courts and truth commissions; and the training of mission components.

50. It should be recalled that in its resolution 1539 (2004) of 22 April 2004, the Security Council requested that a monitoring and reporting mechanism be established to provide it with timely information on abuses against children in conflict situations, in particular their recruitment and use in armed forces and groups. Enhanced cooperation between the three missions and United Nations country teams in the respective countries will be critical in the development and implementation of such a mechanism.

H. Humanitarian assistance

1. Current inter-mission cooperation activities

51. The three Deputy Special Representatives of the Secretary-General, who also act as humanitarian coordinators, are facilitating interaction between UNAMSIL, UNMIL, UNOCI and the humanitarian community on issues of common interest, such as planning for the repatriation and reintegration of refugees, the resettlement of internally displaced persons and the rehabilitation of demobilized ex-combatants. Issues of access to populations in need through cross-border initiatives are also being discussed by the missions in close collaboration with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and other humanitarian agencies. Furthermore, contingency planning has been undertaken for any sudden influx of refugees from neighbouring countries. For example, in the light of the unstable situation in Côte d'Ivoire, the UNMIL Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General responsible for humanitarian coordination established a working group on contingency planning in order to respond effectively to any outflow of people from Côte d'Ivoire into Liberia. The planning was put into practice when UNMIL helped provide assistance to several thousand Ivorian refugees who crossed over into Liberia from Côte d'Ivoire in early November 2004 as a result of the resurgence of violence in that country. Furthermore, joint border patrols helped in restoring the local population's confidence in their security and prevented additional population outflows. The missions also cooperated during the evacuation from Côte d'Ivoire in early November when UNMIL was instrumental in the evacuation and subsequent return of humanitarian workers, thus facilitating the resumption of emergency activities in the country.

2. Areas for future inter-mission cooperation

52. The peacekeeping missions are mandated to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance and should support cross-border operations, including through the use of their logistic assets.

53. A further improvement in information exchange between the missions in the area of humanitarian and development assistance would be beneficial. Sharing lessons learned and best practices between mission personnel and also with the wider humanitarian community in the three countries would be especially useful. This should be done by an increased exchange of reports and also through regular meetings of mission staff. Enhanced cooperation in joint planning on subregional humanitarian issues would also be beneficial.

54. Given the subregional dimension of internal displacement and also the return of internally displaced persons and refugees, inter-mission efforts should also focus on mobilizing resources to effectively address these important issues.

I. Civil affairs

1. Current inter-mission cooperation activities

55. The sharing of information and lessons learned between missions has facilitated the work of civil affairs and electoral units in UNAMSIL and UNMIL which are tasked with assisting in the restoration of State authority throughout the respective mission areas. In this connection, UNAMSIL helped elaborate the role of the UNMIL Civil Affairs Section. UNAMSIL also temporarily deployed experienced staff to share lessons learned on a range of issues including: restoration and extension of State authority; resolution of property disputes; resolution of inter-chiefdom conflicts; and promoting good governance.

56. The UNAMSIL Electoral Unit has shared with UNMIL experience gained from assisting with the elections in Sierra Leone. The reassignment of a small number of UNAMSIL electoral staff to UNMIL in 2004 assisted in starting up the UNMIL Electoral Unit. UNAMSIL and UNMIL are also planning a joint capacity-building programme for electoral commissions in Liberia and Sierra Leone.

2. Areas for future inter-mission cooperation

57. Information sharing between the civil affairs components in the three missions should be increased, particularly in the fields of restoration and extension of State authority, resolution of administrative boundary disputes, as well as promoting national recovery. This could include reviewing the management of national resources through mechanisms such as the Development Partnership Committee and the Steering Committee on Diamonds, which are forums that have functioned well in Sierra Leone. Furthermore, in collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the missions should seek ways and means to promote a curriculum for schools that would teach education for peace and good citizenship.

58. Consultations among the three missions' components, including civilian police, public information and military and administration, should also be expedited to increase inter-mission cooperation relating to the provision of electoral assistance.

J. Rule of law

Areas for future inter-mission cooperation

59. There are major challenges in the administration of justice and rule of law in Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and Sierra Leone. Enhanced inter-mission cooperation could contribute to reforming and improving the legal and judicial institutions in the three countries. In this context, the three missions should continue to encourage the respective Governments to initiate legal reform programmes and promote cooperation and mutual assistance between Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and Sierra Leone, especially regarding cross-border issues, including trafficking in persons; trafficking in drugs and small arms and light weapons; the smuggling of natural resources; and the use of children associated with armed forces and groups.

60. UNAMSIL, UNMIL and UNOCI could also jointly facilitate and support strengthening of judicial and prosecutorial cooperation between the three countries. To that end, the missions could review existing extradition treaties and support cooperation in the extradition process. Similarly, they should continue to encourage the respective Governments to initiate legal reform programmes that promote cooperation and mutual assistance between the three countries.

61. The missions could also cooperate in arranging training programmes for judges, prosecutors and defence lawyers that would address common issues and problems and would help to forge links between each country's national legal and judicial institutions, with the aim of strengthening the rule of law in the subregion.

K. Public information

1. Current inter-mission cooperation activities

62. The public information sections of the three missions are in close contact and regularly exchange information. UNAMSIL has frequently deployed its video team to support the activities of the UNMIL's Public Information Unit and this team has prepared features for UNMIL, including documentaries on the start-up and deployment of the mission, as well as producing disarmament, demobilization and reintegration sensitization materials. Each mission has a radio station and collaboration in this sphere has been under way since their establishment. The missions' radio stations operate under guidelines similar to those of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Public Information and in many cases address similar socio-political challenges.

2. Areas for future inter-mission cooperation

63. Joint community outreach programmes focusing on the populations in the border areas could be developed among the three missions, providing the human and technical resources are available. Given the shared cultural affinity of the peoples of Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and Sierra Leone, and particularly their similar experiences of

conflict, the missions should be able to exchange local language radio programmes. The missions' public information sections should also establish a task force to disseminate information on inter-mission cooperation and cross-border issues.

L. Administration and logistics

1. Current inter-mission cooperation activities

64. Sharing logistic support between the three missions can contribute significantly towards increasing their efficiency while reducing operational costs. For the deployment of UNMIL, the proximity of UNAMSIL (and to some extent the then United Nations Mission in Côte d'Ivoire (MINUCI)) was a critical deployment enabler. Cooperation in this area began in August 2003 when Nigerian troops were deployed from UNAMSIL to UNMIL using UNAMSIL air assets. This was followed by a similar deployment of Bangladeshi troops. Moreover, UNAMSIL supplied the UNMIL Nigerian battalion with such United Nations assets as logistic support equipment and supplies. UNAMSIL also provided the Bangladeshi battalion with water purification equipment and generators.

65. During the start-up phase of UNMIL, UNAMSIL staff on short-term assignments also assisted UNMIL in several areas, including the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme and infrastructure development, information technology and communications, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), engineering, transport, supply, movement control and aviation staff.

66. The missions are already sharing a range of support services, as well as procurement assistance and air operations support. With the approval of United Nations Headquarters, and in line with United Nations regulations, the three missions make use of each other's civilian aircraft. Additionally, there is cooperation regarding medical assistance, including medical evacuation flights and the provision of medical attention at respective mission's facilities. Finally, a coastal vessel contracted by UNMIL is being used for the movement of freight and personnel between the three missions. In the November 2004 crisis in Côte d'Ivoire, UNMIL provided UNOCI with assistance, particularly the use of air assets to relocate staff temporarily from Abidjan to Accra and subsequently facilitate their return.

67. To benefit from the existing cadre of institutional memory and regional expertise, the three missions already share the services of staff members, and experienced personnel are used to conduct cross-mission training. In this connection, UNAMSIL conducted pre-deployment training for the UNOCI and UNMIL military staff and observers before their deployment in the respective mission areas. It must of course be remembered that each mission's budget is independently authorized by the General Assembly, to be used exclusively for the specific tasks mandated by the Security Council. This effectively prohibits the free transfer of personnel, equipment and services between missions. It is therefore necessary for all such inter-mission assistance to be based on a cost reimbursement principle, through the inter-mission billing system.

2. Areas for future inter-mission cooperation

68. A number of steps could be taken to further enhance the already existing collaboration among the missions. Options for further study include interregional air safety operations and aviation weather forecasting services. In addition, there may be scope to consolidate the GIS units of the missions and to share electronic data resources and specific geographic information. Joint inter-mission GIS efforts on terrain analysis, in particular for the border areas, will be crucial to support effectively possible cross-border operations.

69. The crisis in Côte d'Ivoire in November 2004, when UNOCI staff had to be evacuated, highlighted the importance and need to share logistical assets, especially air assets. On that occasion, as in previous crisis situations in other missions, the operation was controlled directly from United Nations Headquarters. It should be possible to achieve similar effectiveness on a regular basis through subregional control of air assets. However, this would require major changes in the way in which mission air assets are managed. In the case of air assets provided by troop contributors, prior agreement to their use in other missions would also be required. Likewise, a theatre air plan would be essential for a coordinated evacuation, reinforcement, or move of mission or subregional reserves. This would also require the regionalization of aviation safety functions and possible central control of assets in one mission.

70. Current logistic cooperation would greatly benefit from the establishment of joint planning groups, to develop terms of reference and logistics support plans. This would facilitate the sharing of resources and logistic support assets. A forward staging area to support the three peacekeeping missions, UNOWA and UNOGBIS would also be beneficial. In view of the UNAMSIL drawdown, UNMIL would be most suitable and has already been earmarked for that purpose. A forward staging area in Monrovia would play an important role in overall coordination, local inventory management and regional utilization of assets, while serving as the primary regional asset depot. However, a regional reallocation of assets must be coordinated with and authorized by United Nations Headquarters so as to take into account global peacekeeping priorities and requirements.

71. The proposed cross-border operations would require appropriate adjustments to the insurance coverage of the missions. Worldwide third party automobile liability insurance, which is provided for all United Nations-owned vehicles in the respective missions, supplemented by the mandatory local vehicle liability coverage appropriate for each mission, is country- and area-specific. The introduction and implementation of many of the proposed inter-mission logistical measures, including the use of shared air and maritime assets, supplies and equipment and medical facilities and expertise would need to be formalized by way of agreements between the respective countries and signing of memorandums of understanding with non-United Nations organizations.

72. The three missions will continue to support each other's operations, including through staff exchanges and sharing of equipment and services, whenever possible. Furthermore, regular meetings could be held between the heads of the administration components of the missions to explore further areas of cooperation and to discuss modalities in that regard.

V. Observations

73. The international community is determined to assist West African countries in resolving existing conflicts and consolidate peace in the region. The United Nations has contributed considerably in this regard by establishing major peacekeeping operations in Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and Sierra Leone, and UNOGBIS and UNOWA. Current United Nations commitments in the region exceed some 24,000 troops, 1,400 civilian police personnel and 3,000 civilian personnel.

74. The dividends from this huge human and material investment could be expanded if used as a part of a broad regional strategy guided by the international community. I am therefore requesting my Special Representatives for Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and Sierra Leone, my Special Representative for West Africa, as well as my Representative for Côte d'Ivoire and the United Nations offices and country teams in the subregion to continue to expand their common efforts to ensure that progress is made in implementing their mandates and bringing durable peace to the region.

75. The cooperative efforts outlined in the present report, which have been established and strengthened over the past months by the offices and missions involved, provide a solid foundation on which to build and expand the impact of the United Nations presence in West Africa. As described in the report, the United Nations has already seen considerable sharing of resources and expertise among the missions most notably through:

(a) UNAMSIL assistance in establishing UNMIL, including in the redeployment of troops from UNAMSIL to UNMIL;

(b) The sharing of logistical assets between the missions that facilitated the establishment of UNOCI and UNMIL and allowed some savings;

(c) The sharing of experienced military, civilian and civilian police staff and the regular exchange of information and lessons learned;

(d) The regular meetings of my special representatives, representatives, force commanders and others and the sharing of lessons learned and development of joint strategies.

76. However, much more can be done to create additional synergies between the missions and other United Nations presences and improve their capacities to implement their respective mandates, while ensuring that the operations are as cost effective as possible. In addition to the formalization of a number of ongoing cooperative activities among missions, offices and other presences, several practical steps should be taken in order to further strengthen cooperation between United Nations missions and offices in West Africa. These include:

(a) The establishment of an operational level subregional reserve force;

(b) The sharing of regional air assets, the establishment of a subregional air plan and the regionalization of aviation safety functions;

(c) The undertaking of routine pre-planned operations along borders, including coordination of activities at crossing points. The possibility of joint air patrolling should also be investigated;

(d) The establishment in UNMIL and UNAMSIL of fully integrated joint mission analysis cells. Serious consideration should be given to establishing a joint

mission analysis cell in UNOCI and a subregional joint mission analysis cell that would include UNOWA and UNOGBIS;

(e) The harmonization of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes and agreement among the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, and among the country teams, on a common, overarching concept of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration;

(f) The establishment of a forward staging area to support the three peacekeeping missions, UNOWA and UNOGBIS, provide overall logistic coordination and serve as the primary subregional asset depot.

77. However, the implementation of a number of inter-mission cooperative activities is currently constrained by several legal, managerial, budgetary, political and operational considerations. It will take much determination at several levels to overcome these hurdles and to implement the recommendations made in this report:

(a) It is recommended that the Security Council consider making the necessary adjustments to the mandates of the missions and offices in West Africa to allow cross-border operations. The Council will also need to help to generate the necessary political support for some of the cross-border initiatives listed above to take place;

(b) Accordingly, the approval of the General Assembly would be needed for the associated increase in budgetary flexibility;

(c) Troop and civilian police-contributing countries should be encouraged to consider granting, and indicating in their agreed arrangements with the United Nations, their permission for personnel and equipment to be used within West Africa and not just in one mission area. This will require a consequent renegotiation of the memorandums of understanding between troop- and police-contributing countries and the United Nations. Countries contributing troops and civilian police must also be prepared to make available troops and officers trained and equipped to plan and participate in cross-border operations, including for use in a rapid reaction operational regional reserve;

(d) West African States are encouraged to give their approval for United Nations operations in the area for the purposes described above, in particular with regard to cross-border movements and operations conducted by United Nations personnel;

(e) Furthermore, the West African States should be actively supported in their desire to promote regional solutions to the crisis. Additional consideration should therefore be given to building the capacity and further improving the efficiency of the ECOWAS and Mano River Union secretariats.

78. While the above agenda will require persistent effort, its impact would be considerable. The benefits would conceivably stretch beyond West Africa as similar principles of inter-mission cooperation could be applied wherever there are other contiguous United Nations presences. The application of United Nations assets in a flexible manner could therefore provide a potent tool for advancing peace processes, and promoting economic recovery, democracy and sustainable development in West Africa and beyond.

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Letter dated 24 February 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention a statement on the political situation in Togo, issued on 23 February 2005 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would arrange for the text of this letter and its annex to be circulated as a Security Council document.

(*Signed*) Jean-Marc **Hoscheit**
Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the United Nations

05-25446 (E) 030305 040305

Annex to the letter dated 24 February 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

Statement on the political situation in Togo issued on 23 February 2005 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union

The European Union repeats the concern it expressed in its statement of 9 February 2005, and it is still greatly alarmed at developments in Togo. While the European Union welcomes the positive signals given by the announcement of presidential elections within 60 days and restoration of the freedom to demonstrate, it condemns the violation of constitutional and legal provisions in the form of the maintenance of Mr. Faure Gnassingbé as interim President of the Republic.

The European Union demands an immediate return to constitutional and legal order, to open the way for free and transparent presidential elections, to which the European Union is ready to offer its support in due course. The European Union calls for full respect for civil liberties and the holding of free and transparent elections, to which the establishment of a genuine national dialogue, or even of a national transitional government, can contribute.

In this context the European Union fully supports the actions of the African Union and of ECOWAS and the efforts being made by their Presidents, Mr. Obasanjo and Mr. Tandja, to restore constitutional order and the democratic process.

In the absence of progress, the European Union reserves the right to take measures to support the actions of ECOWAS and in particular to review its actions regarding Togo in the light of the 22 undertakings given by the Government in the context of the consultations held in 2004.

The acceding countries Bulgaria and Romania, the candidate countries Croatia* and Turkey, the countries of the stabilization and association process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.

* Croatia continues to be part of the stabilization and association process.

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Letter dated 28 February 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention a statement on the situation in Nepal, issued on 28 February 2005 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would arrange for the text of this letter and its annex to be circulated as a Security Council document.

(*Signed*) Jean-Marc **Hoscheit**
Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the United Nations

05-25440 (E) 030305 040305

Annex to the letter dated 28 February 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

Statement on the situation in Nepal issued on 28 February 2005 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union

The European Union Presidency issued a statement on 2 February expressing deep concern about the dissolution of the multiparty Government in Nepal and the assumption by the King of executive powers, and calling for the speedy restoration of multiparty democracy. Later all European Union member States with ambassadors in Nepal separately recalled their ambassadors for consultations in view of the seriousness of developments there. The ambassadors of France, Germany, and the United Kingdom and the chargé d'affaires e.p. of Denmark have now returned to Kathmandu.

The European Union continues to believe that the action taken by the King is a serious setback to the prospects for a negotiated and democratically based solution to the conflict in Nepal. The European Union calls upon the King to take early measures to restore democratic freedoms and civil liberties, and to lift the emergency powers he introduced following the takeover of power on 1 February.

In particular, the European Union calls for the restoration of representative democracy; the fast release of all political and other prisoners detained under emergency ordinances; for unrestricted access without the need for prior notice to all detainees to be given to the National Human Rights Commission and its representatives; for political parties and civil society organizations to be granted the freedom to organize and operate; for the lifting of reporting restrictions on the media; assurances of continued independence for the Commission for the Investigation of Abuse of Authority; and for the restoration of the right to assembly and other fundamental rights. The European Union further calls on the King to take the necessary steps to make sure that the representatives of the National Human Rights Commission will be able to carry out their mandate independently, effectively and without fear for their personal safety.

The European Union views with particular concern the current human rights crisis in Nepal, and the serious and systematic human rights violations by both sides in the conflict. The European Union believes that there is a clear and real danger that intensified conflict and the restrictions on democratic freedoms will lead to higher levels of human rights abuse. The European Union calls for respect for the human rights of the Nepalese people and compliance with international human rights norms and obligations.

The European Union is mindful of the impact the new political situation might have on security conditions in the country and on donors' ability to provide development assistance to poor people in Nepal. The European Union is concerned that intensified conflict could make it more difficult to deliver effective assistance and sustain development programmes. The European Union donors are therefore reviewing the development effectiveness of existing and planned activities in the new context. The European Union calls in particular for all involved in the conflict

to respect and publicly express commitment to donors' basic operating guidelines, to ensure the safety of all those working for and with development agencies, and to allow them to continue to carry out their assistance activities without interference.

The acceding countries Bulgaria and Romania, the candidate countries Croatia* and Turkey, the countries of the stabilization and association process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.

* Croatia continues to be part of the stabilization and association process.

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Security Council

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3 March 2005
English
Original: Arabic

Letter dated 28 February 2005 from the Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I wish to transmit to you herewith a copy of a note of protest delivered by the United Arab Emirates to the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Arab Emirates concerning the decision of the Iranian Government to erect a monument on the island of Abu Musa, which belongs to the United Arab Emirates.

I should be grateful if you have the present letter and its annex issued as a document of the Security Council (see annex).

(*Signed*) Abdulaziz Nasser R. **Al-Shamsi**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

05-25494 (E) 040305 070305

Annex to the letter dated 28 February 2005 from the Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Tehran.

The Ministry wishes to bring to the attention of the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs the news published in the Iranian newspaper *Al-Wifaq*, issue 2115 of 23 December 2004, regarding the decision of the Iranian Government to erect a monument on the island of Abu Musa, which belongs to the United Arab Emirates and is occupied by the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Ministry wishes to register the protest of the United Arab Emirates and its rejection of that act, which constitutes a de facto change to the island, a violation of its historical and cultural features and an encroachment on the rights and sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates over the island. Furthermore, it in no way whatsoever facilitates the solution to the dispute existing between the two countries, but rather runs counter to the solution by peaceful means envisaged by both countries.

The Ministry takes this opportunity to convey to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iran the assurances of its highest consideration.

(*Signed*) [Illegible]
Ministry for Foreign Affairs
United Arab Emirates

To: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Tehran

United Nations S/2005/139

Security Council

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4 March 2005

Original: English

Letter dated 1 March 2005 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to forward a press release issued by the African Union mission in the Sudan on the consultation held by the African Union mediation team with the officials of the Government of the Sudan in Khartoum.

I would appreciate it if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Elfatih **Erwa**
Permanent Representative

05-25661 (E) 040305

Annex to the letter dated 1 March 2005 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Press release

The African Union mediation team held consultations with the officials of the Government of the Sudan in Khartoum

As part of the efforts aimed at achieving a political solution to the conflict in Darfur, a delegation from the African Union mediation team (African Union Commission and Chad) is undertaking consultations with the Sudanese Parties on the best way to rapidly resume the talks in Abuja as called for by the African Union highest policy organs.

In this context, the delegation led by Ambassador Sam Ibok, representative of the Chairperson to the Political Talks, comprising Ambassador Allam-Mi Ahmed, Special Adviser to the President of Chad, Boubou Niang, Political Adviser to the African Union Special Envoy for Darfur, Dawit Toga, Political Analyst at the Conflict Management Division, and Fanklyn B. Kargbo, Senior Legal Officer, concluded a three day visit to Khartoum. The delegation held a series of meetings with Government officials, namely Magzoub El Khalifa, Minister of Agriculture and the two Ministers of State for Foreign Affairs, Najeeb Al Khair and El Tijani Fidail.

During the meetings, the present security situation on the ground was reviewed. The Parties also discussed various issues relating to the preparation for the next round of the Abuja Talks and their resumption at an earliest date. The African Union mediation team informed its interlocutors that at the end of the present tour of consultations with the Parties, a draft Framework Protocol on the resolution of the conflict in Darfur will be prepared in the light of the positions expressed by the Parties.

The African Union mediation team also consulted, on the same subject, the Deputy Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for the Sudan as well as ambassadors and representatives of the African Union international partners accredited in Khartoum.

The African Union mediation team will be leaving Khartoum tonight for Nairobi and Asmara to hold similar consultations with leaders of the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM).